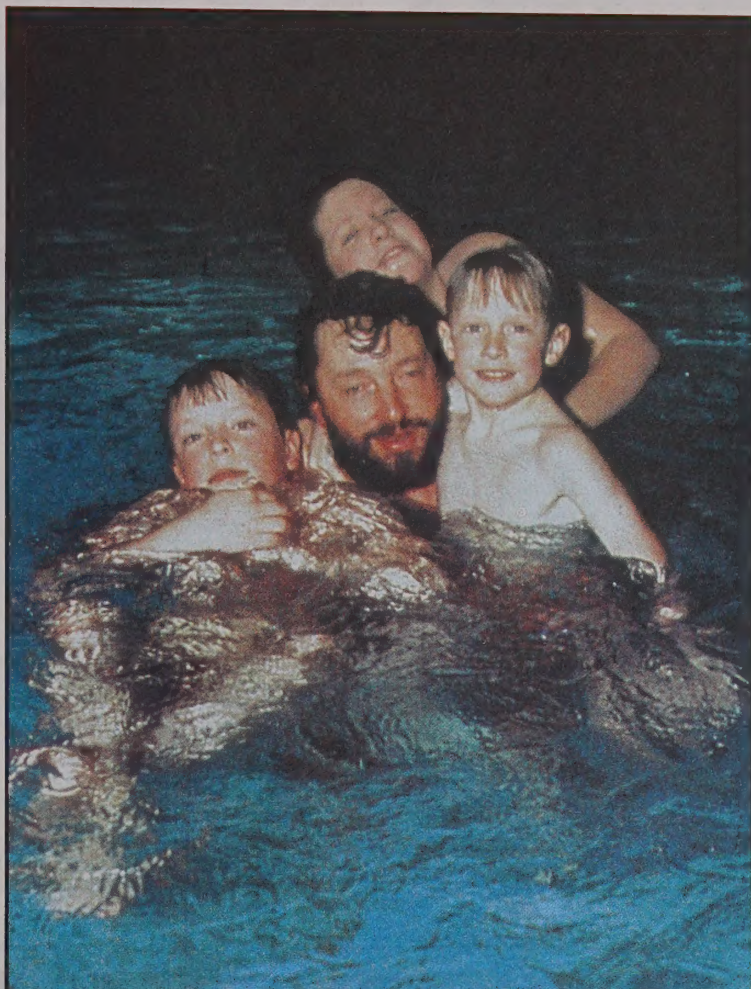


Disability Now

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In the swim: MP David Blunkett and sons in Sheffield's new £52 million Ponds Forge International Sports Centre, built for the World Student Games in July. On 14-15 June Ponds Forge hosts a Festival of Sport for severely disabled people organised by CP Sport, the sporting arm of The Spastics Society. Tel: Cathy Lowe (0602) 692314. SYNDICATION INTERNATIONAL

National protest over loss of advocacy rights

Angry disability groups have launched a national campaign to protest against the Government's decision to scrap vital sections of the 1986 Disabled Persons' Act.

ACT NOW, a consortium of more than 40 disability groups, including MENCAP, RADAR, the RNIB, the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People (BCODP) and The Spastics Society will lobby Parliament on 8 July to mark the fifth anniversary of the Act receiving Royal Assent. People with disabilities, their advocates and carers will join the demonstration.

The campaigners will also send a delegation to the Prime Minister and hand him a letter of protest.

Mary Holland, assistant director of RADAR and co-ordinator of ACT NOW, said: "It is a travesty that an Act which has been given Royal Assent and gone into the statute book should have many of its most important sections

thrown in the bin. We are urging everyone to write letters of protest to their MP."

BCODP director Richard Wood commented: "The Government's decision is a big disappointment but not surprising considering their record on disability issues. It is important the Act is passed because disabled people's lives would be improved dramatically."

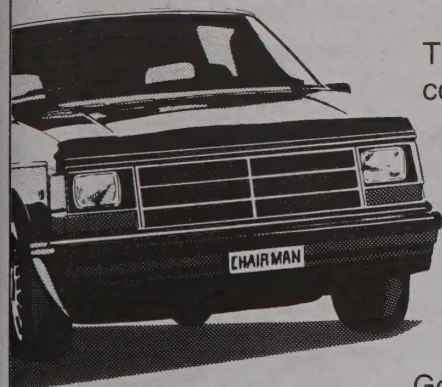
Sally Carr, co-ordinator of The National Advocacy Service, said: "We are supporting the campaign because it is vitally important that authorised representation is recognised in law as it is in other countries."

Sally Greengross, director of Age Concern said: "It is terrible that the Government has put financial constraints before the

Continued on page 3

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RADAR and DLF set to merge

Two of the most important charities in the disability field have decided in principle to merge, possibly by April 1992.

The trustees of the Disabled Living Foundation and the executive committee of the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR) are expected to make their decision by June, when they have had time to digest firm proposals from the working party sent out in mid-May.

Implementation plans should be well advanced by October when final ratification on RADAR's side will be sought at its AGM.

It is possible that RADAR will join the DLF at its west London premises, at least for a short time.

"The conclusion of the working party was that the best

Continued on page 5

Barnhill opt out?

Parents of pupils at a show-piece integrated school are applying to opt out of council control in a last ditch attempt to avoid closure.

Barnhill School in Hillingdon, which has had £500,000 spent on making it accessible, is to close in 1993.

Councillors decided to close it last December (DN, Jan), arguing that there were not enough pupils to keep the school open. Barnhill has 900 places, 341 of which are filled.

But parents of Barnhill's 15 disabled pupils have fought the closure, arguing that it is the only integrated and accessible school in the area.

After an 8,000 signature petition and three months of campaigning failed to change councillors' minds, parents presented a petition to the school governors in April asking to opt out.

A ballot of all parents will now take place this month. Over 50 per cent must vote, and there must be a clear majority of over 50 per cent in favour.

If the "opt out" lobby wins, the school governors have six months to publish proposals about how the school will operate, its admissions policy, when it will open etc. A two month public consultation period follows when anyone can object. The case is then sent to the Education Secretary who makes the final decision.

If Barnhill opts out it will receive its funding directly from the Government instead of through the local education authority. It is then up to the board of governors and the headmaster how the money is spent.

Parents hope that by opting
Continued on page 2



Magic moments: 40 children with special needs from Vernon House and Manor Primary schools in London learned all about music, magic, drama and dance in the Magic Planet project, run by the Tricycle Special Needs Team. The "spectacular finale" is on 7 June at 1.30 pm at the Tricycle Theatre. Free but book early. Tel: 071-328 1000. SHEILA BURNETT

Your comments please

The Museums and Galleries Commission is asking for comments on its code of practice on disabilities.

The commission has drawn up the draft to help museum governing bodies make it as

easy as possible for people with disabilities to enter collections.

Available in large print, braille and on tape from the commission at 16 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA.

Barnhill opt out?

Continued from page 1

out they will save the school. Margaret Grindon, whose son Louis, 11, was transferred to Barnhill from a special school, said: "If the council can't make it work, we can."

Voting papers go out this

month. Although the parents hope opting out will save the school, headmaster Alan Silver is more cautious: "There are no guarantees in this world. But the parents believe this is a unique school which is worth fighting for and this is another way to bring it to the attention of the Secretary of State."

Sponsor for DN's helpline

A very generous offer by two DN readers means that Lin Berwick's telephone counselling service will be able to continue for another year.

Aubrey and Susan Besser from Hove, Sussex have agreed to fund what they see as a worthwhile service for disabled people.

Lin and the DN team want

to express our thanks to them.

Lin, who is blind and has cerebral palsy, is a qualified counsellor and a Methodist local preacher and has worked for several advice-giving charities. She is married and has step-children.

She offers help and advice - particularly on personal, spiritual or sexual problems - to

disabled people, their families and carers from all over the UK. Hundreds of people have used her service and appreciated the help she gave them (See DN letters, May).

If you need help, or know of someone who does, Lin is on call Monday afternoons, 1pm-5pm and Thursday evenings 6pm-10pm. Tel: (04024) 77582.

Right to vote from your home

The Labour Party has launched a campaign to ensure that disabled people who cannot leave their home do not lose their right to vote.

As well as publishing a report called *Wanted: more polling power*, a telephone hotline has been set up.

Jeff Rooker, Labour's shadow community care minister, said: "There are six million adults with disabilities in the UK and many are housebound. Labour wants to ensure the right to vote is not lost for want of advance publicity."

Report free from Mr Rooker, House of Commons, London SW1. Hotline: 071 234 3431.

AIDS: Princess speaks

The Princess of Wales has spoken out against the "ignorance and prejudice" surrounding people with AIDS.

At a London conference organised by the National Children's Bureau, she said: "HIV does not make people dangerous to know. You can shake their hands and give them a hug because heaven knows they need it. What's more, you can share their homes, their workplaces, their playgrounds and their toys."

She warned: "We can't think of AIDS as someone else's problem and put it to the back of our minds. If we do we risk turning what is, in the end, just another life-threatening illness into a plague which will create fear and suspicion in place of goodwill and humanity against far more people than will ever feel the effects of the disease."



Princess Diana ROBERT ABERMAN

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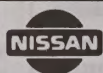
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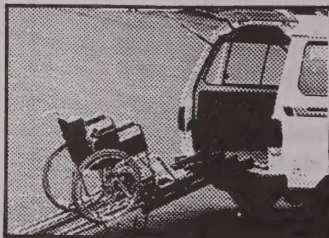
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Society chiefs resign

The chief executive and the director of finance and support services of The Spastics Society resigned last month after evidence that they had broken their contracts was uncovered by an internal audit committee.

Ken Young, 49, and Martyn Dunleavy, 40, had set up a consultancy called Adapt Ltd and solicited business in the field of community care from at least one local authority without the knowledge or consent of the Society. The activity started around February of this year.

"The Society's executive council thought that it was untenable for two senior officers of the Society apparently to put their private interests into conflict with the needs of our clients, parents, supporters and partners, even though no Society funds were involved," said chairman Derek Ashcroft. "The Council therefore felt that it had no option but to ask for their resignations."

"It is the more regrettable, as the Society has been through an unprecedented period of success and achievement over the past three years since Mr Young joined the Society, particularly in the fields of community care and education. The resignations in no way affect our commitment to these areas."

Julian Sorsby, director of operations, later confirmed that the existing policies would continue. But he added: "We

want the management of this organisation to have much more of a human face than it has had. We do not see ourselves as first and foremost a business. We are an agency providing human services and that's what we are going to focus on."

Reaction to the resignations has been muted.

North Housing, which has a joint project with the Society, worth £25m, to provide community homes for 500 people with cp, said: "Nothing about the project has changed."

Dorothy Blatcher, principal administrator for social services at the Association of County Councils, commented: "We have regular meetings with The Spastics Society particularly on care in the community and we have an agreement on funding. I would hope the relationship will not be affected at all."

Graham Ballinger, the Society's midlands regional general manager, whose area includes 15 social services departments, 30 health authorities, 30 local groups and 30 Society shops, said: "The whole issue has had no impact in the Midland region. We had only one telephone call. It's just been business as usual."

Brian Bowry, a user of Society services, said: "I think there may be a short term effect on funding but people will forget and things will go back to normal again. I think the matter was dealt with in the proper manner."

Until new executives are appointed, company secretary Roy Limb will act as chairman of the senior management team.



Taking it to the top: Albert Jackson of Hertfordshire Coalition of Disabled People delivering a protest letter to Downing Street about charges for community care in Herts. JENNIFER HEATH

What happens when the media go?

People disabled in major disasters get too much media attention when the accident happens, and not enough long term rehabilitation afterwards.

This was the main message from accident survivors and professionals at a College of Occupational Therapists' conference in April.

For example, physiotherapist Alison Brown told the conference of a West African student who was severely burned in the

Kings Cross fire. Mr KAW had no close family in Britain and as well as the physical problems, he felt devastated and had a very poor self-image.

When he left hospital, social services were notified and transport arranged for the first two weeks of physiotherapy. After that he stopped coming, until one night he wandered into the hospital after dark.

Ms Brown and a friend spent their free time taking

him out. "He had fallen through the network of social services," she said.

Princess Anne, the College's patron, said people involved in disasters experienced pain, shock at becoming disabled and loss of earnings, but many were not offered counselling: "Some problems may not be apparent for four to five years but people must know where to get help."

Hospital staff, relatives, and friends need help too, she said.

National protest

Continued from page 1

rights of elderly disabled people."

MP Tom Clarke, creator of the Act, attacked the Government in May (see page 4).

The sections scrapped are: 1 and 2 which give disabled people the right to appoint a rep-

resentative to act on their behalf with social services and 3 which gives them the right to represent their needs during assessment, the right to a written statement of that assessment and the right to review.

The implementation of Section 7, which requires authorities to assess needs before discharging people with a mental handicap from long-stay hospitals, has been delayed.

Health minister Virginia Bottomley, announcing the decision in March, said the cost of implementing the sections would be too high and they were not needed as their aims were met by the Government's community care plans.

Mary Holland said: "This is nonsense. The new community care arrangements do not give disabled people the absolute right to an authorised represen-

tative. By refusing to implement these sections the Government is denying basic human rights to vulnerable people who cannot speak for themselves."

ACT NOW also disputes the claim that it would cost £18m to run a system of representatives. "It would cost less than £6m," said Mary Holland.

"Because the representatives would work unpaid, the only expense would be administrative costs, about 75p per week for each representative. I cannot believe that is too much for a civilised country to pay."

ACT NOW recently wrote to the Prime Minister, asking him to overturn the decision. But Mr Major said the situation would only be reviewed again after community care has been implemented in 1993.

"That is far too long for us to wait," said Mary Holland.

Disability Now

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Editor Mary Wilkinson

Assistant Editor

Alison Rowat

Reporter

Rebecca Reynolds

Editorial Assistant

Catherine Holloway

Secretary

Tracy Scollin

Subscriptions

Gayle Mooney, Manager

Karen King, Assistant

Tel: 071-383 4575

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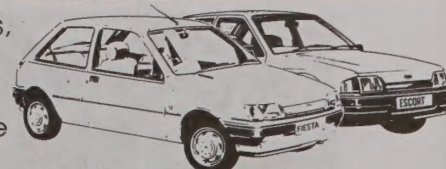
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IN PARLIAMENT

Tom Clarke fights back on the Disabled Persons Act

Tom Clarke (Lab) raised an adjournment debate in the Commons to highlight the Government's decision not to implement sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Disabled Persons Act, and to delay implementing section 7.

He criticised the way the announcement had been made, using two MPs to ask "planted" questions, MPs whom he suspected had shown no previous interest in disability matters.

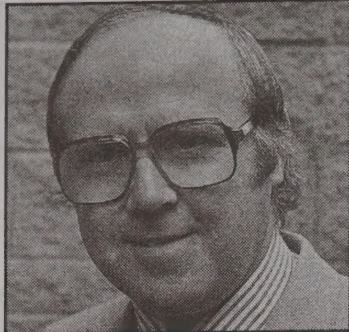
He said he was expressing the anger and disappointment of 6.5 million disabled people, their advocates and carers who have been waiting five years for these sections to be implemented.

Organisations like Act Now, The Spastics Society, Mencap, Age Concern, RADAR and Deaf Accord have expressed deep disappointment, he said.

He challenged the Government's reasons for not implementing the sections. He claimed the NHS and Community Care Act and the Children Act would not go far enough in terms of advocacy, representation and assessment.

"What the Government has done means even more dependence on the complaints procedure, but we are supposed to be talking about community care, a partnership," he said.

There is no partnership



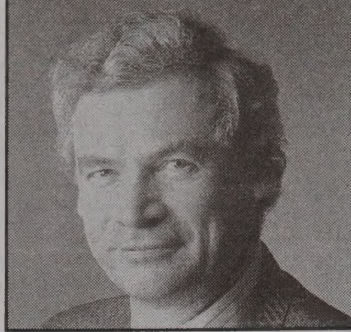
Tom Clarke: critical

when people are denied an opportunity to seek their rights through advocacy and representation, he said.

He quoted from the magazine *Community Care*: "The existence of a complaints procedure is surely a poor substitute for the wide-ranging, one-to-one advocacy envisaged under the 1986 Act."

The charity MIND, he said, thought the Government estimate of £18m to run a system of authorised representatives "would be a small price to pay for guaranteeing a basic human right."

In reply, health minister Virginia Bottomley said she recognised Tom Clarke's disappointment. "In our implementation of care in the community there is no doubt that the spirit and the principle of the 1986 Act have been developed and elaborated upon to ensure that the many frail, vulnerable and disabled people in



Peter Thurnham: hopeful

the community have their services provided in that spirit of partnership that has so shifted our thinking about the provision of support."

She disagreed with Tom Clarke over the value of a complaints system. She emphasised that in community care plans, users' and carers' interests will be considered. She said the Government encouraged advocacy schemes.

She assured Tom Clarke: "We want to ensure that all the principles in the hon gentleman's Act are developed in our community care implementation. I call on him and all the groups with which he works to work with us to ensure that community care is a success."

Child Support Bill: Government gives hope

Lord Henley, for the Government, raised hopes about an amendment from Lord Carter (Lab) which would make the

House point

* Peter Thurnham, chair of the Conservative Disability Group, has extracted a promise from Treasury Minister Gillian Shephard: the Government will see if the existing VAT relief for bathrooms can be extended to kitchens for the homes of people with disabilities.

maintenance formula in the Child Support Bill more flexible to meet the needs of disabled children.

Lord Carter explained: "There are three factors relating to poverty: unemployment, low pay and single parenthood, which are more likely to occur in the families of disabled children and therefore put them at risk of having financial resources which are inadequate for their needs."

He thought the child maintenance formula should contain a minimum extra amount which could be added to, according to need.

Lord Henley said the Government are still considering options, but no decision should be expected until the Bill passes to the Commons.

"Our aim is to do what is in the best interests of children while being fair to the parent paying maintenance," he said

Pauline Rona Graham.

Correction: My apologies for a typing error which changed the meaning of a sentence last month. It should have read: "The Government will also increase the amount of capital a disabled person claiming DWA may have from £8,000 to £16,000."

IN BRIEF

Woman gone missing

Police are still searching for a young disabled woman who went missing in April.



Jo Ramsden, 21 (above), was last seen in South Street, Bridport, in Dorset.

Ms Ramsden, who has Down's syndrome, was wearing a green tracksuit with a pink band across the chest, a turquoise anorak, white trainers and was carrying a Liverpool Football Club bag.

If you have any information please contact your local police station or Dorset Police, tel: (0305) 251212.

Equipment guide

A new 40-page pocket guide to help people navigate the "complex and confusing" system of equipment provision has been published by the Disabled Living Foundation.

Funded by the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, *Equipment for Disability* covers how and where to get a wide range of aids from artificial limbs and speech aids to incontinence and employment equipment.

From Haigh and Hochland, The Precinct Centre, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9QH. Tel: 061-273 4156. £2 a copy, reductions for bulk.

Retired but still busy

Now that Pat Saunders, writer and broadcaster, has retired as director of the Hampshire

Disability Information and Advice Line (DIAL), he is to become the first ever president of DIAL.

John Baker of the Portsmouth Council of Community Service said: "It has been a privilege to work with Pat over the years. If it was not for him, DIAL's Hampshire branch would probably never have started."

Know a loo?

The search for the Disabled Loo of the Year has begun.

Judges are looking for clean, hygienic disabled loos that meet BS5810 and part M approved document standards.

The awards will be announced in December and the winner of the disabled category will be presented with a specially commissioned trophy for a year.

Entry forms are available from the Initial Loo of the Year Awards Office, PO Box 405, London, SW19 1RB. Tel: 081-543 2296.



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Yuppie phone tax "unfair"

Before Chancellor Norman Lamont starts to tax "yuppie phones" he should spare a thought for disabled people, according to one angry user.

Jennifer Reeves, 32 from Surrey, who is also a wheelchair user, is furious at plans for a £200 tax on the phones' private use. "Mobile phones aren't a luxury, they're a lifeline for many disabled people. They're particularly important because wheelchair users can't reach emergency phones on motorways."

Having been made redundant from her job as a legal assistant, she can no longer afford her phone.

"I am paying VAT on both my calls and my equipment. It is too much and I will have to sell the phone. With Mr Lamont planning to introduce a flat rate tax I fear many other disabled people will be forced to take the same drastic action."

Ms Reeves believes companies could help disabled people to afford a mobile phone by giving a discount or offering to pay part of their VAT bill.



Swinging sixties style: Glynn Vernon, Alison Unwin, Janet Kaur and Emma Millar at the Silver Jubilee party of The Spastics Society's Broadstones hostel in Birmingham in April. Glynn, an executive council member, joined past and present residents and staff. NIGEL DICKINSON

Shout out about speech needs

Your child has a legal right to speech therapy and if the education authority doesn't provide it you should consider court action, says a new campaign.

A 1989 Court of Appeal ruling held that speech therapy was in most cases an educational rather than a health responsibility.

But, according to campaigners, some education authorities say it is "non-educational" and

that they therefore have no duty to provide it under the 1981 Education Act.

The campaign, which includes Deaf Accord, MEN-CAP, and The Spastics Society, is urging parents to challenge such decisions, if necessary in court.

As well as a parliamentary motion urging the Government to ensure LEAs fulfil their legal obligation to provide speech

therapy, tabled by Conservative MP John Hannam, thousands of leaflets prepared by the Children's Legal Centre have been distributed.

Speech therapy - claim your child's educational rights, explains what children are entitled to and how to get it.

SAE to Children's Legal Centre, 20 Compton Terrace, London N1.

Still time to catch the comp!

Have you entered yet for DN's 1991 Christmas card competition?

There's a £100 prize if you win and the fun of seeing your design printed on at least 10,000 cards. Winners and runners-up will be offered a free trip to London to receive their awards.

DN is very grateful to the advertising agency DMB&B for donating the prizes and framed awards.

Judging the competition will be Richard Morphet, keeper of the modern collection at London's Tate Gallery, Valerie Lang MBE, executive council member of The Spastics Society, sculptor Adam Reynolds, DN art critic, and editor Mary Wilkinson.

For more information check the poster inserted last month with DN or ring 071-636 5020 ext 245.

Closing date: 24 June.

RADAR/DLF merger

Continued from page 1

benefit to disabled people was to be achieved by merger and our executive committee approved a merger in principle," said RADAR's director Bert Massie.

"This is not a takeover or a

merger out of desperation. There's huge strength in each organisation. In this case one plus one equals more than two."

Paul Brearley, director of the DLF said: "We are at the stage of talking about a merger, but there's a lot of work to do on detail. At the moment it looks

to all of us as though there is a potential to do even better than we do now and offer a much stronger service to our users."

Both directors gave as an example an improved information service, with the DLF offering a data base and RADAR membership providing a wider constituency and local feedback.

Paul Brearley thought the new organisation would be the same size or even bigger, with more personnel staff.

He saw no reason for the combined budget of the two organisations, running at about £2 million, to change radically in the short-term, although he admitted that future Government funding was "on our mind". This year RADAR gets £225,000 and the DLF has asked for £337,000.

Asked if he thought the Government might be tempted to cut its total funding to a joint organisation, Paul Brearley said: "There's an argument for giving more money because we are doing things more effectively. I don't think there is a sound reason for cutting."

No name has yet been found for the new organisation, though it is agreed this is a priority.

Who will be director has not been broached either. Bert Massie was appointed RADAR's director in April 1990 and Paul Brearley was co-opted from the Department of Health in August 1990 for a minimum of two years. "It could shrink or expand," he said. "I'm having a good time".

Deaf rights manifesto

Deaf Accord, a consortium of deaf organisations, which includes the British Deaf Association, is asking all political parties to support its new general election manifesto.

Among the manifesto's

demands are the introduction of anti-discrimination laws, more specialist services for deaf/blind people, a better funded hearing aid service, and more access to technology and interpreters.

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Gut feeling on arthritis

Doctors may have tracked down the major cause of rheumatoid arthritis to a common gut bacteria.

Four studies have shown that people with arthritis have high levels of antibodies to a bacteria called *Proteus mirabilis* in their blood when the condition is "active".

When the bacteria is in the gastro-intestinal tract it is

harmless. But if the bacteria reaches other parts of the body it can, in certain genetically susceptible people, trigger the production of antibodies that attack the joints, causing swelling and stiffness.



PATRICK BAGLEE

Much of the initial research has been done by the Department of Rheumatology at Uni-

versity College and Middlesex School of Medicine.

The research team, led by Dr Alan Ebringer, hope they can reduce inflammation and stop the disease from progressing by using antibiotics to eliminate the gut bacteria. The theory is now being tested on 300 patients.

Dr Ebringer said: "This treatment will not undo the damage that has already been done by the disease, but hopefully it will stop further damage."

The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council said: "The results

of this work are very exciting and important and we hope it will lead to better treatment."

Marfan find

Scientists are close to finding the cause of Marfan Syndrome, a condition that affects over 5,000 people in Britain.

With Marfan Syndrome the connective tissue which supports and surrounds internal organs is weak, causing problems with the eyes, heart and skeleton.

Without treatment, the aver-

age age of death is 32.

In 1989 an consortium of research groups was formed and nine laboratories in seven countries started looking at 22 chromosome pairs for the gene that causes Marfan.

Finnish scientists narrowed the search down to chromosome 15, while the American team discovered people with Marfan do not have enough fibrillin, a protein found in connective tissue.

As the Marfan gene and fibrillin gene occur in the same region on chromosome 15, scientists concluded that the Marfan gene and fibrillin gene may be one and the same.

Reseachers are now trying to determine the sequence of amino acids that make up a "normal" fibrillin gene. Once this is done, researchers can identify the faulty codes that people with Marfan have.

Researcher Dr Anne Child, a clinical geneticist at St George's hospital in Tooting, said: "At the moment there is a problem of identifying the syndrome because the symptoms develop slowly. But once we know which children have inherited the gene we will be able to offer preventative care by protecting their back with a brace and strengthening the aorta through surgery."

Marfan Association, c/o Dr Anne Child, Department of Histopathology, St George's Hospital, Tooting, London SW17 0RE.

Alzheimer's testing

Some people with Alzheimer's disease could have their mental abilities temporarily improved by a new drug, according to the Institute of Psychiatry in London.

Professor Raymond Levy studied a group of 89 Alzheimer's patients who were given a drug called Tacrine over 13 weeks. It produced "significant symptomatic improvements" in 45 per cent of those with a mild to moderate form of the condition. Of the 65 patients who completed the trial, 29 showed an improvement in their mental abilities, becoming more attentive and alert.

Dr Sarah Eagar, joint author of the study, said: "The drug improved the patients' perceptual and attentional functions rather than their memory. It improved their ability to understand simple explicit rules but not complex ones and their abilities to do everyday tasks were not improved."

Tacrine is an important first step in the treatment of the disease. But Dr Eagar said: "It is not a cure and will not reverse the disease process. Tacrine can improve symptoms for a year or two, but there is evidence that the drug becomes less effective with time and that patients will eventually deteriorate."

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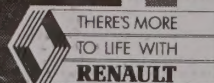
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Thanksgiving service forces action at St Paul's

Tim Russell reports

The Corporation of London has announced plans to improve access to St Paul's cathedral.

The proposals follow talks between the Corporation and the John Grooms Association for Disabled People.

Access to the building is so poor that when the association held its 125th anniversary thanksgiving service at St Paul's on 23 April, 140 wheelchair users entered the building only because two giant ramps were fitted to the north and west entrances.

The temporary ramps cost £5,000 for the day, paid for by National Car Parks.

Charles Moore, chief executive of John Grooms, was so concerned about the lack of access he contacted the cathedral and the Corporation (which is responsible for the exterior and gardens).

"There is a wheelchair lift on the south side of the cathedral," he said. "But it is not signposted and difficult to reach. The only way is to go through the cathedral gardens and climb up two steps, something which is very difficult for wheelchair users."

The Corporation now plans to remove the two steps at the entrance to the gardens by raising the pavement on the south

side of the cathedral to the same height, which will give wheelchair users level access all the way to the lift.

Judy Fleck, the Corporation's access officer, said:

"The cathedral is a grade one listed building but we are keen to make it as accessible as possible. The removal of the steps has become part of our accessibility programme for this year and we are now only waiting for the approval of the cathedral and English Heritage."

Martin Stancliffe, surveyor of the cathedral's fabric, said: "We are pleased the Corporation has finally decided to get rid of the steps as it is something we have wanted done for a long time. We are looking forward to seeing the plans."

Charles Moore commented: "Although we are very happy that moves are being made to remove the steps, wheelchair users still face problems getting into the cathedral."

"The door that leads to the lift is always locked, which means that once you have reached the door you have to go and get a verger to unlock it."

"Finding staff is no easy matter," said Nancy Robertson, a wheelchair user and council member of John Grooms. "It

means either making arrangements in advance or having an able-bodied person with you to alert the staff."

Charles Moore has suggested having an entry phone and an automatic opening device fitted to the door that leads to the lift.

Wheelchair users would press a buzzer when they arrived and cathedral staff would be able to open the door automatically without leaving the cathedral.

A security camera could be fitted to make sure only people with disabilities entered.

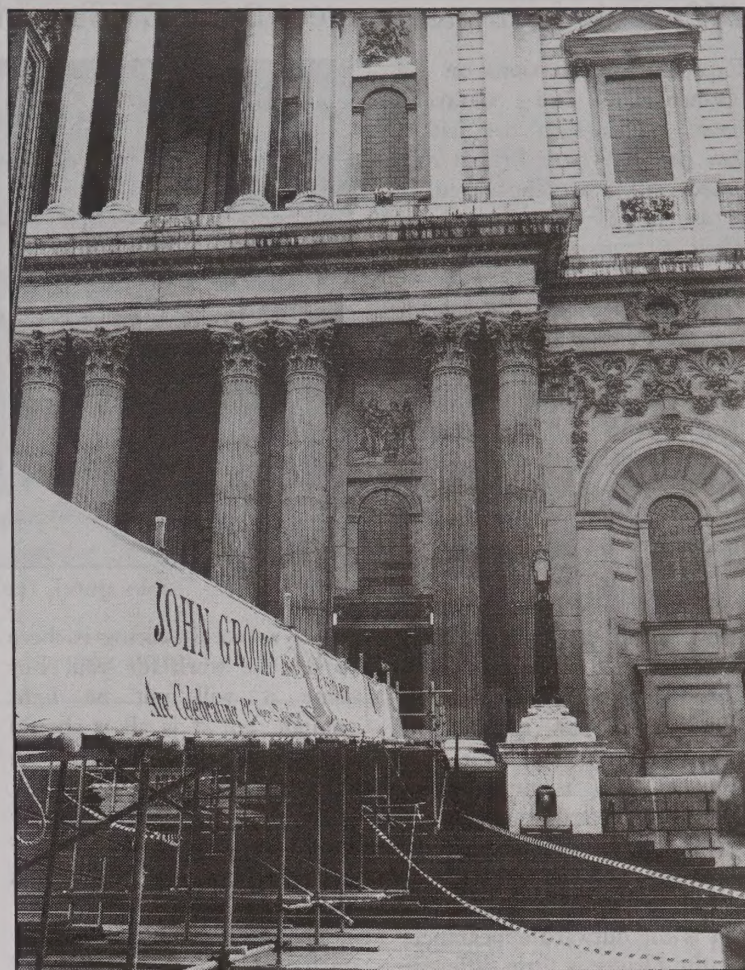
"The automatic device would save everyone a lot of time and energy and make visiting the cathedral so much easier for disabled visitors," said Charles Moore.

The plan has already been discussed by the City of London's Access Group and Judy Fleck said it would be "seriously considered."

Mr Stancliffe confirmed: "We will consider the plan for an entry phone but its viability would depend on the cathedral having enough staff to man it."

"Rather than make piecemeal improvements we want to take an overview of the cathedral's access problems and address them as a whole."

But the John Grooms Association wants improvements



An 80ft ramp was the only comfortable way in.

ROBERT SONE

made as soon as possible.

Nancy Robertson said: "St Paul's is a national monument which should be enjoyed by everyone."

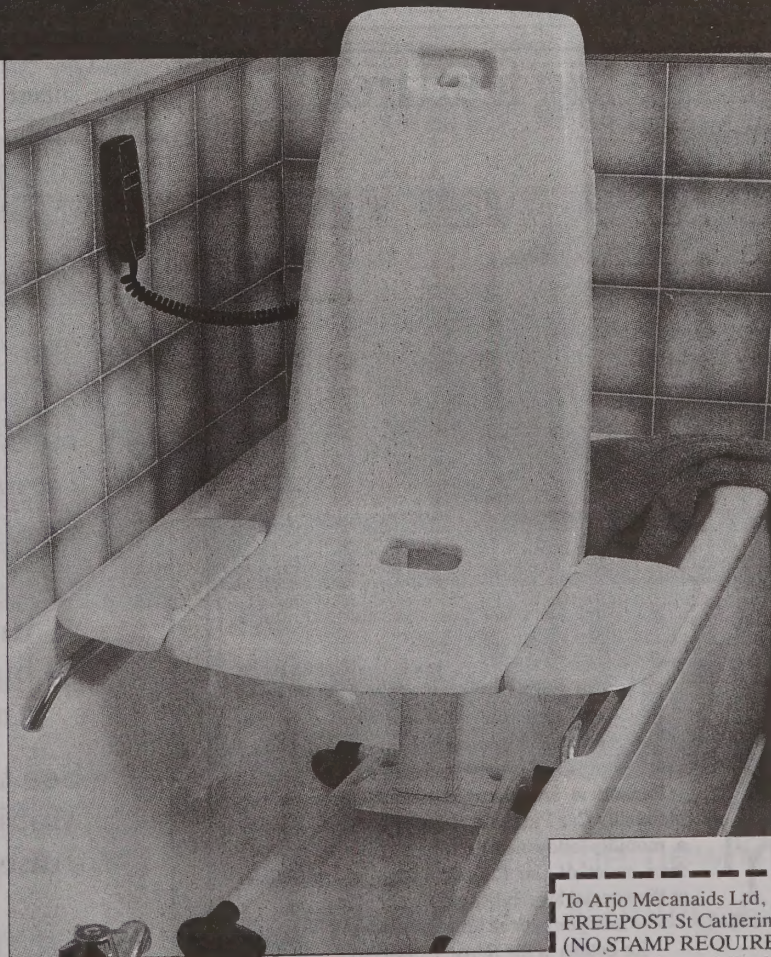
"Our thanksgiving service

showed that people with disabilities can play a big role in the life of St Paul's. We are now keen that the cathedral and the corporation should enable us to do that."

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Gti look-a-like is safe, secure and fun to drive

DN's motoring correspondent David Griffiths tries out the little-known Volkswagen Golf Driver 3-door automatic

Except for conversions on the Transporter and Caravelle bases, Volkswagen has had a low profile where British disabled drivers are concerned. It is as though they have been afraid to suggest that some of us may be pleased to try one.

Indeed, not so long ago, I became embroiled in an argument with a senior VW employee over the very existence of the Golf Driver - he insisting that it was not available and I that it was. Since I had just driven some 150 miles in the very vehicle, I won.

That VW Driver 3-door automatic came from the same stable as this latest model with power-assisted steering - the Absolute School of Motoring, which specialises in disabled driver tuition.

Today VW is much more orientated towards the disabled driver: its mobility brochure has this car on the front cover.

The first thing which strikes you is the outward appearance, for the Driver is little different externally from its famous and much-sought-after brother, the Gti. Four headlamps and a special grille make it stand out from the basic models, or even the CL.

It's a heavy, solid looking car and, sitting as it does on low profile tyres, gives the impression of needing some muscle to haul it round anything like a sharp curve.

Nothing could be further from the truth, though, for the



Golf Driver: "looks good, feels nice and gives your ego a lift when you are alongside a Gti."

power-assisted steering is there to do the work for you. For some it will not be light enough, but it is all it should be for maximum control with minimal effort.

All round vision is pretty good, although the thick rear pillars offer some blind areas and the rear end is a bit high.

The Golf has been largely unchanged since it first arrived and the body shell is beginning to show its age. On the other hand, it is unmistakably Volkswagen - solid, attractive enough without pandering to whimsical fancies, functional and built to do the job for which it was intended - getting places safely, swiftly and for many years to come.

On the road, I was struck at first by the softer feel and lightness of control over the previous model. It felt much

more lively, yet less urgent. However, it was a false impression, as I soon discovered when glancing at the speedometer. Sure enough, it was hovering on 65mph as the winding class B Shropshire country road appeared to be passing by at about 40.

Safe and surefooted, with vice-free handling, it is equally at home on the motorway or down a muddy track, and you would need to be pretty ham-handed to get into trouble with roadholding of this calibre.

The test vehicle was fitted with push-pull hand accelerator and brake by Jim Doran Controls and incorporated a small toggle switch in the hand grip for operating the indicator.

Brakes were somewhat on the heavy side, but stopping power was excellent, and the controls felt positive with a

nice chunky feel. The accelerator actuation was by means of a cable, so knee-room intrusion was minimal.

Jim Doran Controls may not be known to many readers, but this small, Coventry-based company specialises in individual modifications involving some pretty innovative technology, and Jim has just completed a second tiller-bar conversion on a conventional vehicle, which should attract those who drive invalid trikes.

Returning to the Golf Driver, what are its attractions in comparison with its rivals? Basically, solid engineering coupled with VW reliability and a long life.

Although available on the Motability leasing scheme, it is really not the sort of vehicle for this job. A three-year-old Golf with 36,000 miles recorded has hardly begun to settle in.

The three-door version offers superb access for those

with stiffened lower limbs and for wheelchair users, with easy stowage behind the front seats and a good range of seat adjustment. Seating is comfortable and supportive too, and the vehicle lends itself to a wide range of modifications including the Kempf ring accelerator.

On the minus side, the gearshift selector (rather short) is somewhat stiff, and the rear sill to the hatch really needs to be lower in keeping with some of its competitors.

Whatever your feelings about such things, there can be no denying that this car is aptly named, for it is truly for the real driver who enjoys getting the most from behind the wheel in safety. It looks good and feels nice, and gives your ego a lift when you find yourself alongside a Gti.

It is economical too by all accounts, although my brief spin did not allow me to check this out.

I can't help feeling a bit envious of the lucky learners who will get their experience at the wheel of this car. My Mini just didn't have the same class.

Golf Driver 3-door automatic costs £10,590.66 (inc. VAT and car tax). Contact VAG UK Ltd, Yeoman's Drive, Blakelands, Milton Keynes MK14 5HR, tel: (0908) 601187.

Absolute School of Motoring, Birmingham, tel: 021-477 3577. Jim Dorley, tel: (0203) 460833.

Don't forget: 1991 Mobility Road Show, 21-23 June (see What's On, page 22).

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quietness the Clio gives the motorist a real sense of freedom.

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Straight set climax to tennis

Chris Illingworth of Balham overcame a determined challenge from Leicester's Jayant Mistry to win the 1991 National Championships for Wheelchair Tennis in May.

The event, at the Delta Centre in Swindon, attracted the top British wheelchair players.

Chris did not drop a set in his match with Jayant, winning 6-2, 7-5. It was his third national title in four years.

"The match was closer than the scoreline suggests," said Chris, who was forced to drop out of last year's event with two broken legs.

"The most pleasing thing about this championship was the large number of new players coming through."

Sixteen people entered the novice event, won by Steve Roche.

The most exciting match of



Illingworth: Balham's best

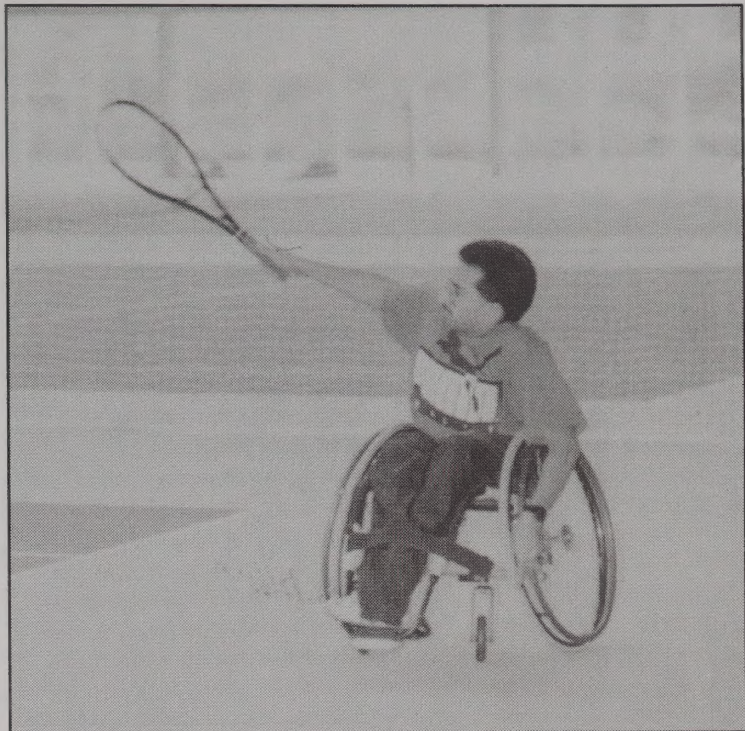
the tournament was the semi-final between the 1990 champion Jayant Mistry and England's highest ranked

player, Simon Hatt of Wandsworth. It was a repeat of last year's final but Jayant stunned his opponent by coming back from 2-5 down in the deciding set to win 8-6.

"That was one of the best matches I've ever played in," said Jayant. "I was disappointed to lose my title but full marks to Chris. He's an excellent player and it's great to see him back in form."

Wheelchair tennis fans will get another chance to watch the top players when they compete for the British Open title at Bishops Park, Fulham, on 31 July.

National Wheelchair Tennis Association tel: 071-736 3854.



Serving it up: Jayant Mistry at the baseline

BRIAN SHAW

1991 Marathon best ever

The 1991 ADT/BSAD London Wheelchair Marathon was the fastest and most exciting in its nine year history.

Frenchman Farid Amorouch beat the favourite and last year's champion, Bo Lindkvist by only three seconds. He cut four minutes off last year's record by the Swede Hakan Ericsson with a time of 1 hour 52 minutes and 52 seconds.

The race was the most international ever, with athletes from Austria, Canada, Denmark, Eire, England, Germany, Gibraltar, Holland, Switzer-



Oops! Gremlins robbed Mike Karaphillides (left) of his rightful place in the picture on page 5 of last month's DN so here he is again with Chas Sadler.

ROBERT SONE

land, Wales and Zimbabwe taking part.

Five athletes took the lead at Westminster Bridge, including favourite Bo Linkvist, Hakan Ericsson, Jean Francois Oitevin and Daniel Wesley. But it was Amorouche who broke clear of

the pack in the final 200 yards to snatch a memorable victory.

Daniel Holding was the first Briton to finish in sixth place in 1:54:39 still feeling the effect

of competing in the Boston Marathon the week before.

Welshman Chris Hallam's hopes of winning a third London Marathon were wrecked by a puncture early in the race. The pit-stop lasted for five frustrating minutes but he still carried on, finishing 19th.

Chas Sadler, a member of the London Wheelchair Marathon Committee, had a good race, finishing in 19th place with the same time as the winning woman runner, Rosa Mota, and also found time to play host to the race's foreign wheelchair competitors with his fellow competitor Mike Karaphillides.

Mike came 40th with a time of 2:57:19. He said: "The race began very well for me, but the

conditions on the way back were terrible. There was so much wind it slowed me down."

Chas and Mike both coach youngsters in London. Chas was delighted that one of his athletes, Tim Christie, 15, from Merton, won the boys' Mini Wheelchair Marathon.

Melodie Warren, also of Merton, took the girl's title.

The women's race winner for a second year was pre-race favourite Connie Hansen. The occupational therapist from Denmark, who has a string of athletic successes to her credit, including five gold medals in the Olympic Games in Seoul, was in formidable form. She trimmed the course record by six minutes to win in 2:04:40.



A change for the better!

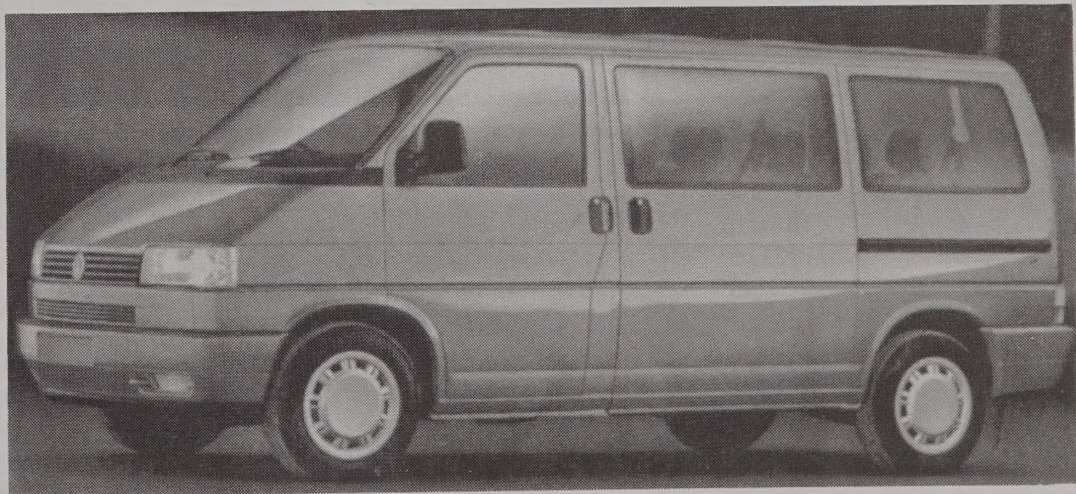
Next time you're travelling across London and need to get from one Main Line terminal to another, try Carelink. It's an hourly door-to-door bus service between stations with cheerful little red and yellow buses. They're wheelchair-accessible and they've got friendly patient drivers.

Carelink is especially for people who find ordinary buses or the Underground difficult to manage (you might be carrying luggage for example). And at Victoria and Euston Carelink becomes an air link, meeting up with the frequent Airbus services to and from Heathrow. These buses, too, are now wheelchair accessible.



For more information about these and other special facilities on London's buses, Underground and Docklands Light Railway, call London Transport's Unit for Disabled Passengers on 071-222 5600. Or write to the Unit at 55 Broadway, London SW1H 0BD. DNG

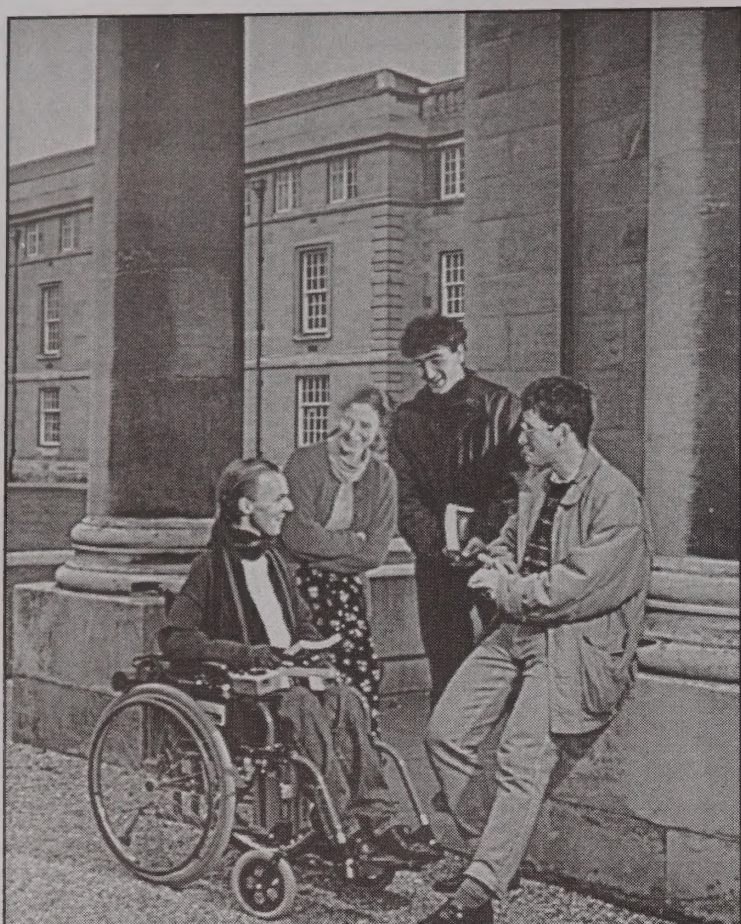
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"We do converse with other species": Nick with economics student Frances Kaplan and fellow law students Steven Coren and Michael Harrison outside the college. PHIL SAYER

Planning to leave home is a daunting task for anyone.

When you are disabled and your destination has never had people in wheelchairs before (so no facilities exist), there are those who would say the move borders on madness.

Last October I went to Downing College, Cambridge. I am 19 and have Becker Muscular Dystrophy, a progressive muscle disorder, which put me into a wheelchair three years ago. I have left the security of home, my friends and a mainstream school which offered all the

support I needed. Am I mad?

I come from a legal family (my father is a solicitor) so it was no surprise to anyone that I wanted to read law.

But once I had decided that Downing College was the kind of place I could see myself in for three years, my parents wanted to check that the idea was feasible.

Looking round the college it was obvious to us that the facilities left a lot to be desired. Only three buildings were accessible - a reading room, the dining room and the bar.

Making the break

Relationships (5): Nick Atkinson took a bold step when he exchanged parents and home for a college which had no experience of disabled students and where everyone was a stranger

But the college promised improvements: ramps were to be installed, a room converted, and a linen cupboard just opposite would become a shower and toilet.

Terry Robinson, Muscular Dystrophy Group's family care officer in Cambridge, agreed to supervise the modifications. The college was aware of its lack of facilities for disabled people, had intended to put some in place, but had no one who knew what was needed.

The result is a friendly physical environment for me and a college facility that suits a disabled person's needs rather than one created by a designer with no personal experience who says what disabled people want.

There remained the question: where would the help I need come from?

Everyday tasks people take for granted are a problem for me - cooking meals, getting washed, etc. At home my parents had been there. I felt it would be wrong to turn to students for help; nor did I want to have to rely on them.

The obvious option was employing a nurse, but money? There are many allowances for the disabled student, but it's a hard slog securing them (I am still appealing for night time attendance allowance).

I have to use my mobility allowance as well as my attendance allowance to pay for

care: a nurse comes in weekday mornings, one every night around six o'clock and one on Sunday mornings.

In addition to my allowances I receive half a grant and the same parental contribution as my twin sister, Jane, who is at Newnham College.

Recently I received £250 from the Snowdon awards to help pay for an electric wheelchair.

I don't think I should have to use my mobility allowance

nervous. They asked the college if they could stay for several nights at the beginning of the first term. I had no say in that and in a way I felt my toes were trodden on. It was nice to have them but difficult to make new friends. Dad would have stayed, but Mum realised after a couple of days that I was coping all right and they went.

A week later they set off on a grand tour of Scotland - talk about incommunicado!



Coffee helps the Constitution? Nick and Steven take a break.

for care. I have an application with the DSS for a £3,000 grant for nursing.

The college was fine physically, the support services were in place, but all this would mean nothing if I couldn't cope.

My parents were naturally

My sister and I now ring once a week and report our continued existence and our struggle to stay in the black.

I see Jane every now and then. It is reassuring to have her just down the road and, no doubt, for my parents too.

When they departed I felt a bit nervous - "it's only you kiddo: you've got to set up down here and get to know people." You know no one to begin with, and it's a bit lonely when the lights go out at night and there's no one passing the window.

But that only lasted a couple of days. I started to go round in groups - lots of events were organised in the first week - and then lectures started.

During that first week I tried to put myself in other people's shoes, thinking how difficult it would be to come up to someone sitting in the corner in a wheelchair. I realised I would have to make most of the first moves if I was to make friends.

By and large I've been accepted. Maybe those who haven't accepted me dislike my manner, find me a bore or whatever - maybe it isn't the wheelchair.

I feel I have many very good friends, friends who are keen to understand disability and who become more at ease the more they get to know me, but friends who also want to get to know Nick Atkinson and not the blue wheelchair in the corner.

If I'm mad, I'm glad of it.

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Therapeutic earnings: who's eligible?

DN's new, occasional, feature aims to unravel some of the complexities of the benefits system which have baffled individual readers and are likely to baffle others. Our benefits expert is Margaret Weeks

The problem

I am a disabled person with multiple sclerosis and I would like to warn other readers daring to venture into the world of "therapeutic earnings".

This tale begins in November 1990 when, aged 26 and fed up sitting at home while my four-year-old daughter was a nursery school, I decided it was time for me to go back into society and meet people.

I acquired a part-time job in a local store under the "therapeutic earnings rule" which means:

- *no more than 12 hours a week to be worked - fine
- * no more than £35 a week to be earned - fine
- *that I had to sit down to do my job - again fine.

The store that employs me even went so far as to make a position for me and then at coffee break time they would bring me a drink to save me from trying to climb upstairs to the staff room.

The same week as I started my employment, the DSS stopped my invalidity benefit and paid me income support,

causing a drop of income of £50 a week.

They sent me to an independent doctor of their choosing to see - wait for it - if I still have MS.

Four months and a terrifyingly huge telephone bill later, I am still waiting to get my invalidity benefit back.

In April I was notified that they had stopped my income support as well, thus leaving me with no money whatsoever until my child benefit was due three weeks later.

According to a letter from the council, the DSS had said I was no longer entitled to income support and that I was to go back to full rent and full poll tax. No easy feat when you live on disability benefits and have a four-year-old to support and are also divorced.

The really stupid thing is I haven't been able to go to work for nearly four weeks now as I can't afford childminder fees.

So, no wages, no income support and no invalidity benefit. Where will it all end? In an appeal court?

Andrea Cougill
Retford, Notts

Margaret's answer

Andrea has made the mistake - that so many people make - of thinking therapeutic earnings do not affect their invalidity benefit when topped up with income support.

If you are in receipt of income support and are a lone parent or receive a disability premium in your assessment, there is an earnings disregard of £15.

When in receipt of a disablement benefit only, then therapeutic earnings are allowed. However you must first ask for your doctor's approval that it will benefit your health and be therapeutic.

You must also get permission from the DSS. They will ask all sorts of questions about what you will be doing in the job, how many hours you will work and how much you will earn, when you don't know the exact details. By the time the DSS agrees, you will probably find the position has been filled.

In Andrea's case, she took the job first and had her invalidity benefit withdrawn. Although this has now been reinstated, she earns too much

to claim income support.

Andrea now has to claim a rebate for her rent and community charge. Fortunately there is an earnings disregard here of £25 a week because she is a lone parent, but she is left with an excess income of around £9 a week, most of which she will be expected to pay towards her housing costs.

Claiming the rebates is another lengthy procedure and meanwhile she will be asked to pay full rent and community charge.

Andrea has lost entitlement to free milk for her daughter, any money from the social fund and exemption from NHS charges and fares to hospital. She must now work her way through the minefield of the "low income scheme".

If your income is higher than your requirement (assessment of resources is broadly the same as for income support), you cannot get help with NHS prescriptions.

However, you may get help with other NHS charges and fares to hospital.

You have to apply to the Agency Benefits Unit for an AG3 certificate to show you are eligible for partial help

with charges. The certificate will last for six months and a repeat claim has to be made shortly before the end of this period.

You make the claim for an AG3 on an AG1 which you can get from the DSS, your local hospital, dentist or optician. Send it to the Agency Benefits Unit, which will decide whether you are entitled to partial help with charges. There is no right of appeal against a decision, but you can ask for a review.

Given all this hassle, I wonder if Andrea thinks the job is worth it. Perhaps a part-time voluntary post, which pays your expenses, would be easier. But remember, you must get permission from the DSS first.

Margaret Weeks has been a CAB adviser with special interest in disability for eight years. She also works on the Cerebral Palsy Helpline. She has rheumatoid arthritis.

Margaret Weeks can only tackle wider benefits issues. For routine benefits advice, contact your local Citizens' Advice Bureau.

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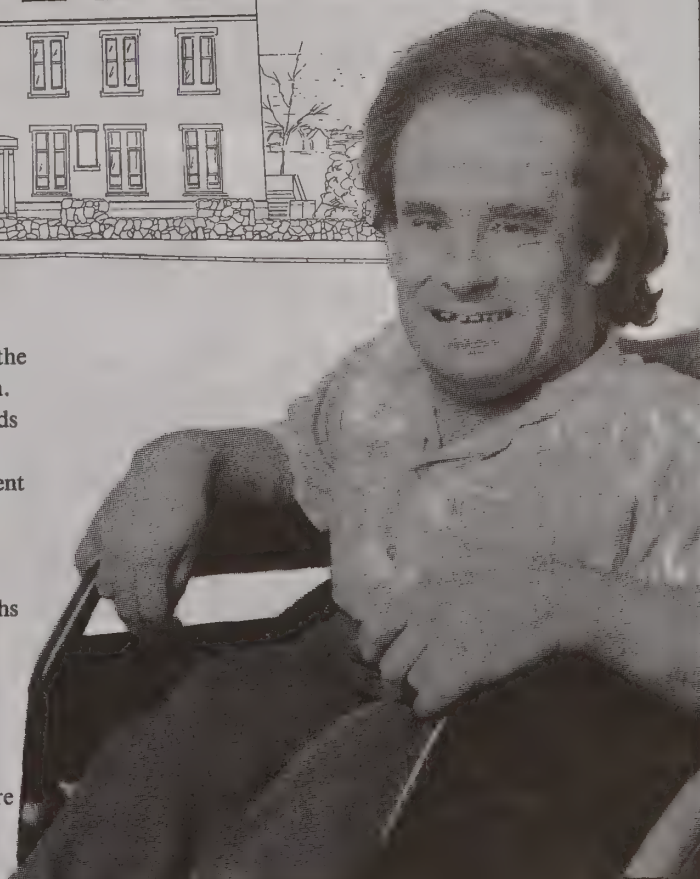
- Winston House Residential Care/Nursing Home, Southport
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- Queens Court set new standards in nursing, post-operative and residential care when the luxury hotel was completely renovated by Care Link at a cost of more than £1 million.
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- Matron Joyce Farrah and her team are determined in their aim to make every stay at Queens Court an experience to remember with pleasure.
- Queens Court costs no more than many less well-equipped nursing and residential care homes and residents supported by D.S.S./Income support are welcome.



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Letters to the Editor

Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

Tourism for all, stage two

The report on the Tourism for All in Europe conference (*DN* April) gave a very fair assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the first-ever conference which attempted to bring together the tourism industry and the disability world.

It is an uphill battle to persuade the tourism industry that accessibility is good business and is not merely all about ramps and toilets. But I believe the conference started a process of dialogue and I am confident that several of those operators returned with the clear intention of improving accessibility.

There are two immediate plans now. The first is to produce a general statement on minimum standards for access to transport, accommodation and visitor attractions we would like to see, which will be distributed to every government in Europe and also to the European Commission. The second will be a process of follow-up with the tourism industry, notably the hotel sector, which was sadly under-represented at the conference.

Regarding the comment in your "sic" column, the Gatwick Stirling Hotel shot itself in the foot by not taking note of a number of points of inaccessibility we raised, including the step in front of the entrance. In fairness, most of these have now been attended to.

This does go to show what a long way we have to go. The guide produced by the ETB and the Holiday Care Service, *Providing Accessible Accommodation*, is being distributed free to every hotel with over 10 bedrooms in the country (some 9,000 in all), together with a leaflet *Easy Steps to Welcome Guests*, which gives details of low cost and no cost improvements which they can make.

Your readers can help hoteliers and operators of visitor attractions by pointing out in a constructive way to managers the weaknesses in their buildings and suggest how they might solve the problems.

Do keep pointing out that accessibility is good business - not just for wheelchair users, but for families and the enormous group of people represented by those with prams, those carrying heavy luggage, elderly people, pregnant women and everyone else for whom a ramp or easy-to-open door will make life more straightforward.

Paul Dicken
Head of Policy
English Tourist Board
London SW1

Management training

As one of last year's trainees on the new, free, Coverdale management training scheme for disabled people, I would recommend any disabled person who aspires to develop

their management techniques and strengthen their confidence to apply for a Coverdale bursary (see *DN* April).

What I thought would be a one-off management training course on team skills has exceeded all my expectations by becoming an array of interesting courses. They include project management, negotiation skills, managing change, personal relationships, time and stress, assertiveness, creative thinking and influencing skills.

The important thing is that each person can choose and decide what best fits their own development plan and working practises. So there is wide scope for innovation and developing one's own approach to working most effectively with teams and structures as well as improving performance and application.

On-going supervision from an experienced Coverdale consultant ensures that we have personal monitoring of progress.

John Evans
Chair, British Council of Organisations of Disabled People
Hampshire CIL

Closing date for applying for a Brisenden bursary has been extended to 17 June. Tel: 071 925 0099 - Editor.

In the dog house

I am writing to protest about the article entitled "Bow wow" (*Sic* column, *DN* April).

As a disabled person whose main hobby is dogs, I feel that you should refrain from printing such things until you have checked carefully the facts surrounding the case.

The disability of the man involved was indeed very relevant to this case.

As was reported in the "dog press" after the case was

heard, the man involved claimed that he did not throw the dog against the wall as several witnesses stated, and used the fact that he had some sort of mild disability (described as "a limp" in the report) as "proof" that he couldn't have done so.

I would have thought your writer should have been more interested in the fact that somebody would raise their disability in connection with behaviour of this sort in the hope that it would convince the Kennel Club disciplinary committee that he couldn't have done what was witnessed, rather than the sparse wording of a small article in a national newspaper.

It would be more helpful, if *Disability Now* wishes to involve itself in canine matters, that you investigate the Kennel Club's policy of discriminating against wheelchair-using judges at dog shows.

Mrs Catherine Watson
Wolfhill, Perthshire

Home ownership

With reference to your article "DIG fights for home ownership" (*DN* May), may I, as a registered disabled person, offer the following information.

In 1990, to avoid becoming homeless, the Abbey National Building Society gave me a 100 per cent mortgage to £50,000, being an interest-only repayment mortgage.

Being in receipt of Income Support etc, 16 weeks prior to completion of mortgage contracts, the full interest was paid by the Department of Social Security.

Prior to exchange of contracts, in fact when a property had been found, the DSS were contacted by letter to ascertain if the mortgage repayments would be met in principle.

An affirmative letter was received from the DSS and the

mortgage was obtained.
A Williams
London

War of the word processors

I was sorry Ben Clarke's article "War of the word processors" (*DN* April) didn't actually name the college which gave him such a hard time.

His experiences echoed many of mine in attempting to do evening classes at the City University in London - also in theory "disability-friendly", but far from it in practice.

We need to name and publicise places like this.

Jill Holroyd
Barbican, London EC2

I have had similar experiences to Ben Clarke in dealing with educational officialdom. On the other hand, I have been lucky enough to spend a year learning about computing and word processing at NewLink, Acorn Centre, Nottingham.

I myself have MS but the Centre caters for people with all forms of disabilities - they're interested only in maximising potential abilities.

Anyone in the Nottingham area - grab the chance.

John Robertson
Nottingham

Comfy feet

With reference to your article about footwear (*DN* April), I have to recommend Scholls.

My daughter took me to the Leeds branch where I found a lightweight, leather, wide-fitting pair of trainer-type shoes which are, to me, more comfortable than shoes, and less odour-making than plastic.

When they became worn, I tried my local branch at Maidstone. I bought a similar style in another colour and, best of all, the assistant said I could order more by post and gave me the style number.

Mrs M J Maskell
Chatham, Kent

Well you'd be wrong. Equal opportunities personnel, in charge of putting policies on disability, race, and sex into practice, are among the most stressed of all occupations, according to a psychologists' study published in April. We wonder why.

Monkey business

According to a report in the *Daily Mirror* in April, social workers in Brittany in France are training monkeys to look after disabled people because they can't get enough humans to do the job.

After four years training, the monkeys will be able to do around 50 jobs such as turning the pages of a newspaper, switching off lights, putting a tape into the video, and emptying the fridge.

In case you're thinking of applying for a job, we hear the wages are "peanuts" and the only perks are a swinging rubber tyre and a tea party every Tuesday.

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Inaccessible martinis

The Holiday Care Service aspired to the high life in April with a tenth birthday party held at the elegant Martini Terrace on top of New Zealand House in the Haymarket, London. Guests, including Minister for Disabled People Nicholas Scott, heard about the new Holiday Care Awards designed to boost services to disabled people, how Barclays Bank has funded fifteen tourist information leaflets and BP a new Holiday Care Service leaflet. An appeal was launched for £500,000. All excellent and much needed.

How then could the party be held in a place which officially does not allow disabled people and where the lavatories are up or down a flight of nine steps? One wheelchair user was even warned to make himself comfortable before he arrived.

It's time the Holiday Care Service came down to earth and practised what it preaches.

sic

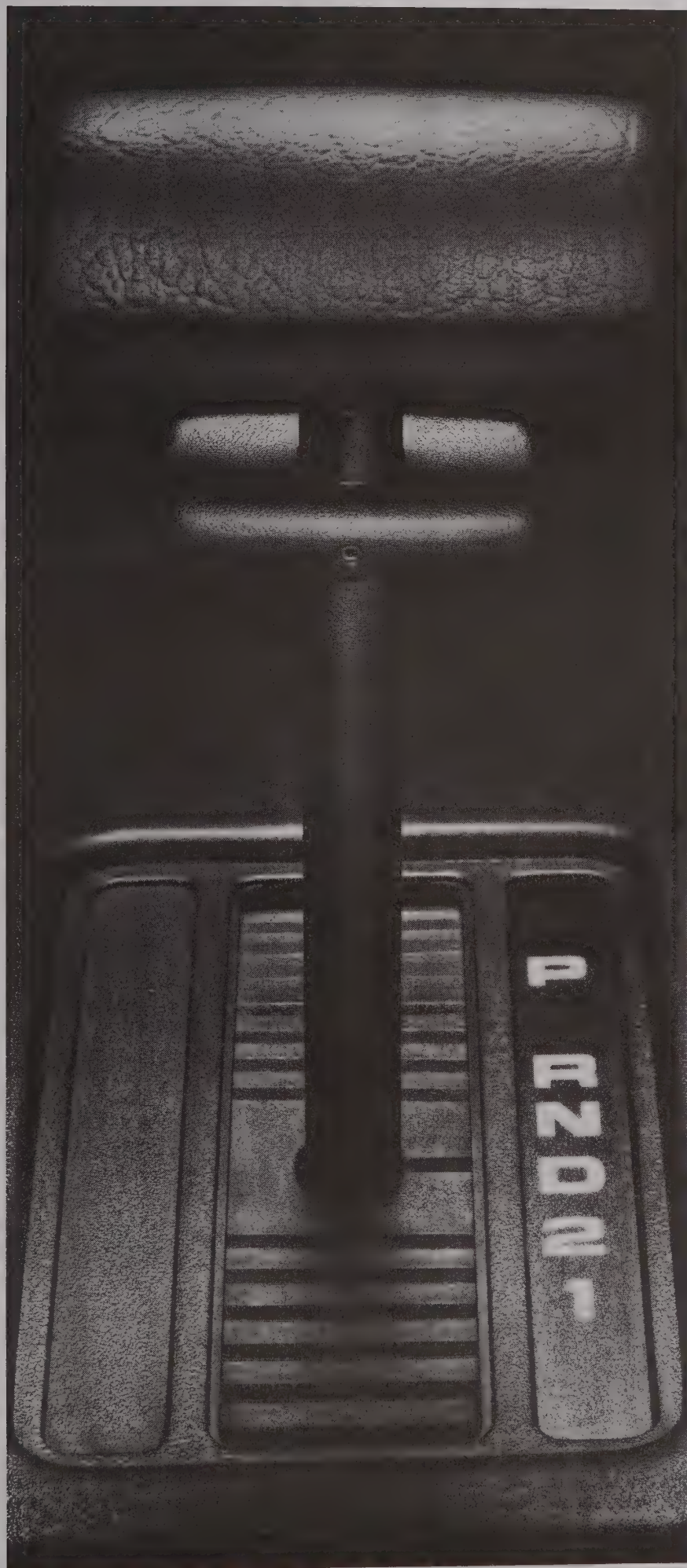
Hold on

Still on holidays, if you are a wheelchair user and plan to go to Italy this year, be warned. *DN's* motoring correspondent David Griffiths, just back from a three-week trip, found no loos for disabled people in Florence. and only one in Rome - in the Vatican. (Though, since he couldn't find any wheelchair accessible food shops either, maybe you won't need them.) Austrian MP Manfred Srb, who was also on holiday in his wheelchair, vowed to start a campaign for accessible loos. In the interests of European unity of course...

Equal stress

If you were to list the most stressful jobs to have, what would you come up with? Doctor, fire-fighter, policeman?

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14 BOOKS

The Which? Guide to Camping in the South of France and the Dordogne

by Fizz Fieldgrass
(The Consumers Association and Hodder & Stoughton, £3.95)

The problem with most holiday publications is that while they contain a lot of information, they convey little or nothing of the atmosphere of the regions they cover.

Add to this that for the most part they ignore the needs of disabled people altogether, assuming, incorrectly as it happens, that anyone reading the publication is going to be the stereotype norm, 16-60, five feet eight and a quarter, ten-stone three pounds, regular jogger, driving licence holder, 1.4 children and a nagging mother-in-law.

It is one of the most frustrating things I face. As a disabled person, I not only want to know all the things that everyone else is deemed to want to know, but also whether I can get into the place, what facilities it has and so on. Holiday publications are not usually much help in this respect, unless they are

houses, soft azure cloudless skies, rivers meandering through deep-green hills, rolling plains, spectacular gorges ...

In the words of Fieldgrass, "the Gorges de Verdon is the daddy of the French gorges". Known as the Grand Canyon, its walls rise to 700 metres, yet in places it is just six metres wide.

Ardeche I have seen and wondered at, spell-bound. This other, greater thing I have not, as yet, experienced. But already I have been there. I can imagine it, the grandeur of it, the scented air of basil,

rosemary, lavender. It is that sort of book. Not any old guide, but a little reading experience.

It's not cheap, but it is well worth it. If France or even camping is beyond your hopes, it will help you with your dreams. And if you would like to go camping, then it could be cheap at twice the price. A pity perhaps that they did not opt for the wheelchair symbol to make reference a little quicker, but it's a small matter, and anyway, this is a guide to read, not just to glance through. More please.

David Griffiths

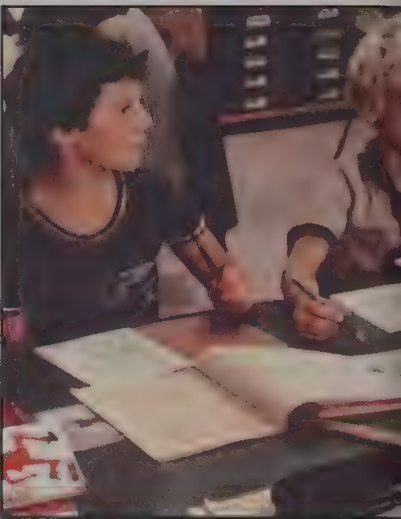
Understanding Osteoporosis

by Wendy Cooper
(Arrow, £3.99)

This paperback explains in simple terms a serious medical condition which affects one woman in four over 50.

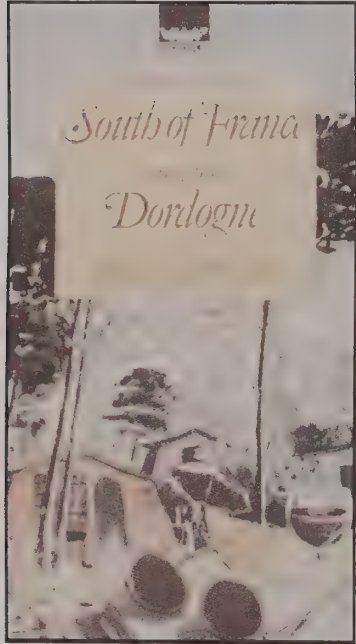
Osteoporosis, a painful and crippling condition, has been around a long time but it has only recently been popularly identified and described in non-medical terms.

Wendy Cooper gives us a clear explanation of why it happens to so many post-



The Hearing Impaired Child and right place. Souvenir Press. £14

The bed that puts control firmly in your own hands.



Which? one: this one.

especially compiled with the disabled user's needs uppermost.

How nice it was then to get this latest publication from the Which? stable, for it is not just another text-book of holiday camp sites but a real guide to what it is like to visit the regions and each selected site.

If this were not enough, it includes information on facilities for disabled people, AND indicates sites which have no facilities, rather than leave the reader guessing.

The Dordogne, Ardeche, Provence are the finest that France has to offer in terms of unspoiled countryside, regional cuisine and climate, coupled with perhaps the most magnificent scenery in Europe.

Most Brits, opting for the Mediterranean, or the sun-baked bar-lined Costas, are missing out on pink-washed



Here's a little good news for all those people who unfortunately are largely confined to bed. You no longer have to take life lying down. Hoskins, Britain's foremost manufacturer of hospital beds, has developed a domestic bed based on our vast experience of medical equipment and understanding of the needs of people who need special attention.

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aims to help parents choose the back, £9.95 paperback. Reprint.

menopausal women (and to a very few men).
Osteoporosis is the result of accelerated bone loss due to the withdrawal of oestrogen after the menstrual cycle ceases. (In fact, bone is being lost slowly, and replaced, throughout our adult lives.) Apparently, the only proven method of preventing this thinning of the bones is Hormone Replacement Treatment (HRT) which replaces the lost oestrogen.
Those who have experienced the benefits of HRT, not only in preventing osteoporosis but also in alleviating menopausal

symptoms, testify to its advantages and are keen to encourage all women to consult their doctors or a specialised clinic in good time.
The possible risks of HRT are also outlined, though the author and many others consider that the benefits far outweigh any adverse effects. Ongoing research has brought improvements in the combinations of hormones used and methods of treatment available, both of which have reduced the possibility of adverse effects and, in fact, now offer positive benefits to health and well-being.

There are also chapters on strategies for preventing bone loss, including diet and exercise, and on living with osteoporosis. But, the main message, as in Wendy Cooper's earlier book *No Change*, is to encourage women to press for HRT and to ensure that they get the best medical advice available.
The National Osteoporosis Society, set up in 1986, is growing rapidly and is evidence of the need to "harness people power, to influence politicians and doctors regarding the magnitude of the national

osteoporosis problem so that something would be done about it."
Useful references and the addresses of menopause and HRT clinics in the UK are also included in this informative book.
Margaret Morgan

The National Osteoporosis Society, tel: (0761) 32472.
Awaiting the Healer
by Margie Willers
(Kingsway Publications, £3.99)

Margie Willers has athetoid cerebral palsy. She came from a wonderfully supportive Christian family who had given her a firm foundation in the Christian faith.

Like so many disabled people, Margie deeply resented her contorted body, poor speech and the physical exhaustion involved in completing the simplest task. Her teacher referred to her as "trash" and that only served to reinforce what the doctors told her mother: "Put her away, forget you ever had her."

Margie longed to do things as the able-bodied did. If God wanted to, he had the power to heal. Correspondence took place between Margie and the healer Kathryn Kuhlman which eventually inspired her to travel from New Zealand to Los Angeles, convinced that healing would take place.

There is a moving account of the Kathryn Kuhlman services. Excitement, hype and healing, but not for Margie. The disappointment was devastating.

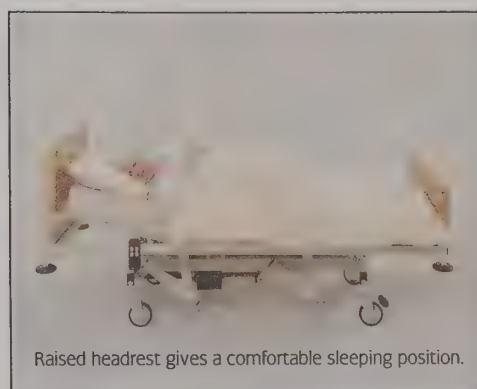
The book is littered with biblical passages that indicate healing and wholeness. Sometimes I felt a little cynical reading it, because the right text always appeared at the right time.

After much soul searching, Margie let go of her pleading with God to be made whole and prayed for him to use her. Her mission was to preach the word of God, but how?

A place at Faith Bible College gave Margie inner strength. It was here that the most powerful visions of the sufferings of Christ occurred. While at college, Kathryn Kuhlman died. Margie then knew that her vision of bodily healing must also die.

With the help of Christian friends, she realised her ministry was to the disabled. The Christian Fellowship for the Disabled was founded and spread throughout New Zealand. She took on many speaking engagements which she found punishing yet fulfilling, even to the extent of sacrificing her marriage.
Margie says true Christian maturity involves accepting God's "No!" and facing up to the fact that we simply don't have all the answers.

For anyone who has ever asked "Why me?", this book is well worth reading.
Lin Berwick



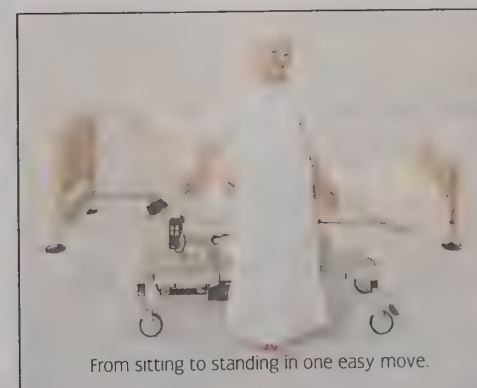
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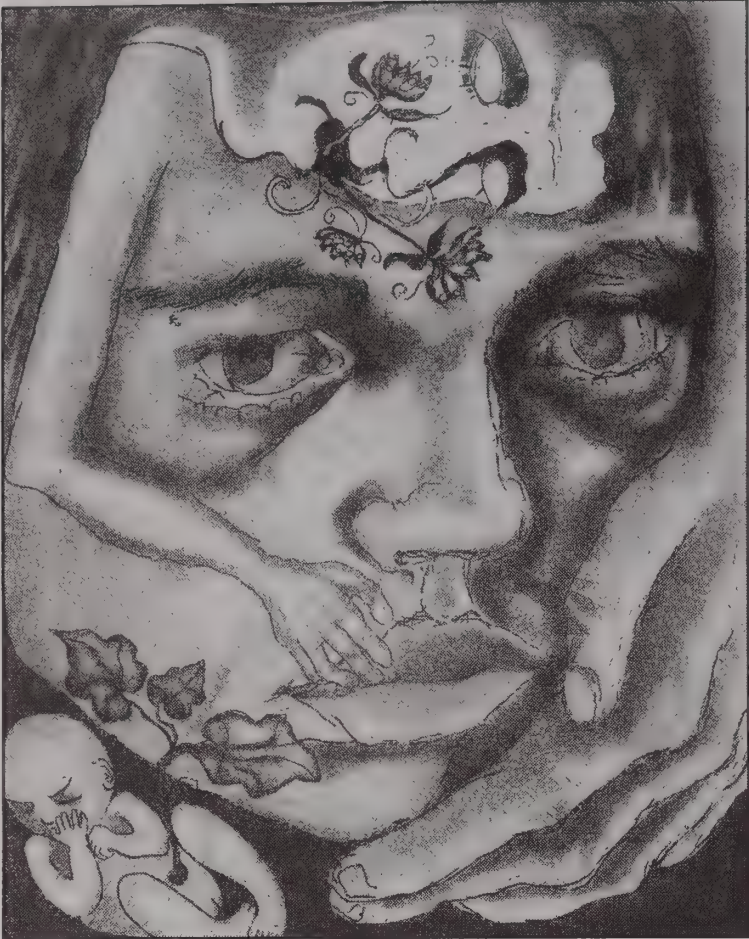
Since September 1990 Nancy Willis has been artist-in-residence at Hammersmith Hospital, London.

The term artist-in-residence is broadly used to describe an artist who, for a limited period, works in a specific setting: a school or a factory for example. The work they undertake can vary enormously but is generally work in which both artist and users have played some part.

In recent years several hospitals have been host to an artist. I believe, though, that the Hammersmith is the first to offer the post to a disabled artist. Nancy has muscular dystrophy and finds this of particular significance here, where attention is usually focussed on what is "wrong" with a person. She feels it is a welcome change and a challenge for the institution to deal with a disabled person as a fellow professional.

Nancy is ideally qualified for the post. Since graduating in fine arts in 1977 she has exhibited her own work. She also teaches and runs workshops which has involved working in a variety of social services institutions. Indeed before moving to independent living she had first hand experience of life inside Great Ormond Street, a disabled

Hospital reality and artistic dreams



Nancy Willis: self-portrait

girls' boarding school and a Cheshire home. Her teaching has given her a feeling for the creative potential in everyone, and she gets great pleasure from encouraging people to realize it.

When she moved into her studio at the Hammersmith

she exhibited some of her previous work by way of introduction - particularly appropriate as much of it contains a strong element of self-portraiture. She draws and paints but also works with clay and bronze. She has made assemblages of discarded

boxes and packaging and has developed a particular approach to printmaking. Despite this diversity of materials her work has a consistency: brightness combining with a very soft touch and a calm, clear energy.

Her themes also remain constant: "I try to find ways to speak about my disability and my life in my work. Much of what we see of images of disability are imposed upon us from outside, the able bodied view of disability. I try to find my own voice. The pieces invite the viewer into an inner world which juggles realities with dreams, losses with hopes and possibilities. Through expressing my particular view I hope to touch on feelings and experiences we all share."

As well as working on a commission Nancy has opened her studio to patients, staff and visitors.

Her residency at the hospital has ten more months to run. So far she has concentrated on drawing in the two wards nearest her studio: the neonatal unit and the care of the elderly. Out of these drawings she hopes to develop a work for a permanent site in the hospital which deals with these two fragile extremes of life. I, for one, await the unveiling with impatience.

Adam Reynolds

TV

I ought to confess: I'm a Trekker. From the days of Captain Kirk, I've been an ardent fan. It was always minority conscious, but **Star Trek-The Next Generation** shows distinct disability awareness. One of the regular characters is blind, and despite having being twice offered sight, has chosen to remain so.

Admirable politics. But the actor is sighted, and the potential for disability storylines is minimised because he wears a visor which can technologically-induce sight.

Such qualifications don't apply to the episode *Loud as a Whisper* (BBC2, 1 May). This guest-starred deaf actor Howie Seago as deaf peace-maker Riva, who depends on three interpreters with whom he communicates telepathically. When they're killed, he discovers his natural language of sign is a powerful peace-making tool. Mind-blowing material, and exemplary use of disability drama.

The Canadian documentary *Extraordinary People* (Everyman series, BBC1, 21 April) showed three men whose mothers had taken Thalidomide.



Although they were very positive in their self-perception, one took a delight in displaying his semi-naked body to show how the drug had affected him, and another took pride in his participation in telethons. And the organisation which they helped form is dubiously called the Thalidomide "Victims" Foundation. A bit of a mixed blessing, this programme.

The **James Whale Radio Show** (ITV, 20 April) discussed charities with, among others, comedian Allan Sutherland representing the Campaign to Stop Patronage. Previously, viewers may have thought that the campaign's line was utterly rigid and opposed to all fundraising, but Allan's line was reasoned and reasonable. More surprisingly, instead of being given a rough ride by the host (who often plays devil's advocate), Allan found James siding with him.

The Fall (10x10) series, 26 April) was pioneering television and choreography. A genuine spinally-injured dancer featured in this 10 minute ballet about a wheelchair user who, while painting, tips her chair backwards. While she awaits help she reflects on her past as a dancing non-disabled child and then imagines herself dancing now. Regretably, only the present was shot in colour. Her dancing was positive fact - why portray it negatively?

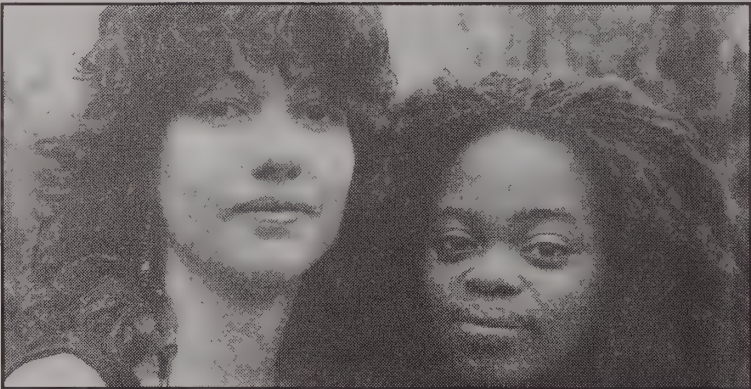
Chris Davies

VIDEO

- Inaccessible cinemas mean videos are the only way some disabled people get to enjoy the latest films. *DN* film critic Andy Kimpton-Nye gives the top five*:
1. **ROBOCOP 2** (Virgin) More crime-fighting and the threat of being dismantled for the cinema's answer to the bionic man.
 2. **PRESUMED INNOCENT** (Warner) Harrison Ford's legal man in the dock for murder in this courtroom drama with a sting in the tail.
 3. **CRIMES AND MISDEMEANOURS** (Virgin) Moral dilemmas, fine acting, mirth and murder from Woody Allen.
 4. **CADILLAC MAN** (20:20) Robin Williams' struggling car salesman walks into a showroom hold-up by jealous husband.
 5. **NIKITA** (Guild) Punk-junkie sociopath gets life sentence then a reprieve in exchange for work as undercover government agent. Violent, yet stylish, tour-de-force.
- *Chart by The Video Palace

Look out for

- The Best of Chicken Shed** by the Chicken Shed Theatre Company. 12-14 June. Barnet, London. Tel: 081-342 0671.
- Rosemary Terry and Nigel Prince sculptures.** Wolverhampton Art Gallery. Till 22 June. Touch facilities and tape. Tel: (0902) 312032.
- Disability and Cinema.** Films and talks. Ipswich Film Theatre. 5-30 June. Tel: (0473) 255851.



Fish out of Water (above) are just one of the bands available through Stream Records, a new mail order service supplying music by disabled artists. Contact Stream Records, 77A Hindmans Road, East Dulwich, London SE22 9NG.

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DN6/91

A private recovery from a public disaster

When Louise Mortimer was injured in the Clapham rail disaster of 1988 her life and her disability became "news." Hounded by reporters at the time, she has now chosen to tell her story to *DN's* Alison Rowat

Louise Mortimer, 26, might have made a perfect media heroine. Young, pretty and disabled in the 1988 Clapham rail disaster, she could have featured in many "lovely young victim struggles to rebuild her life" stories.

But it was not to be. In April, at the College of Occupational Therapists' conference on disasters, she still was still refusing to talk to the media.

Louise Mortimer may have been involved in a public disaster but her experience and her disability are intensely private matters that she is still coming to terms with herself.

On 12 December 1988, her boyfriend Gavin saw her and her friend Theresa on to the 6.30 from Bournemouth. They were on their way to Chase Manhattan bank in London, where Louise was a clerk.

The crash happened just outside Clapham Junction. "I just lay there thinking 'Well, I'm still alive'. I could see my hand had come off, and the bone had come through my leg, the blood was running down and most of my clothes had been shredded."

"I could have done with someone female to talk to, to tell me how I could dress myself, or how to do my hair with one hand. I had nothing."

Two and a half hours later, Louise was cut out of the wreckage and taken to St George's Hospital in London. As well as losing her left hand and wrist, she had severe multiple injuries to her trunk and legs. Theresa was one of the 34 people who died.

There was no way to save her hand. "The doctor said: 'If I sew it back on you'll die, it's as simple as that.' It's not much of a choice really, is it?"

She woke up in intensive care. "My family were stood round my bed. I remember saying 'they took my hand' and they all said 'we know'. I felt really cross that they'd told them. I wanted to tell them what happened."

But if she thought this was an invasion of her privacy worse was yet to come. Reporters donned white coats and tried to get into her room. Her family were harassed as they tried to visit her. Even when she left hospital after two months, local newspapers and tv crews hounded her.

She wasn't ready to come home, but she had been led to believe she couldn't transfer to a local hospital. Her family had to stay with her 24 hours

a day, with Gavin rushing home at lunchtime. Her only outside help was a district nurse and a home help for 90

my friend's funeral and say goodbye. I was grieving belatedly for her, for myself, and for my hand, which is like



Happy and at home: Louise and "Keith Fat Cat"

minutes a week.

Louise felt badly let down by the hospital in other ways. "I could have done with someone female to talk to, to tell me how I could dress myself, or how to do my hair with one hand. I had nothing. I wasn't seen by an occupational therapist at all. I had physio but not very often. To this day I've had no help with general everyday things."

This left her bitter for a while. "Now I think that having to work it out for myself was probably better therapy than somebody just telling me what to do."

Louise was shocked when she saw the NHS range of hands: she didn't want to wear her wedding ring on a hook, and she thought the PVC ones looked like "something from a shop window."

She found a French company called POM who make silicon hands. Each hand is unique. A near perfect match is the aim, right down to the half moons on the nails.

The POM hand cost £3,000, but it has been worth every penny for the confidence it has given her. She waited till the hand came before she married Gavin on St Valentine's Day last year in Barbados. But the happy ending wasn't here yet.

As one of the 111 people injured in the crash, Louise could go to a "Clapham psychologist". But she had never asked for help or gone to the survivors' group.

Last October, the mental wounds opened up. "It came home to me that I wouldn't be able to do things the way I used to and that hurt. I was suddenly faced with the fact that I hadn't been able to go to

losing a friend as well."

The woman psychologist was a great help. "I had got to the end of my tether with men. All the doctors were men, the solicitors I had to

deal with were men. They seemed to have this opinion that it wasn't important that you couldn't do your hair or do your stockings up on your own. They seemed to think it so trivial, but they were important issues to me."

Gavin had suffered too. "Physically and emotionally I was a different person. He had put an able-bodied person on the train and picked a disabled one up out of hospital. It was a shock to come home and be reliant on people helping us."

"Of all the people, he was the biggest help. He was always there, rushing back and forth from work, taking me to the loo, putting me in the bath, carrying me upstairs."

Five days after the crash British Rail established that signal faults had caused it. Yet two and a half years later, Louise is still fighting for compensation. "Two or three times I've got so fed up and I've told my solicitor to forget it, that I'm sick to death of them being so nasty, sending letters every five minutes. Then I think 'Why should I let them get away with it?'"

She still has some way to go

in coming to terms with what has happened. "I don't think it is something you ever come to terms with, as far as I'm concerned. I'll live the rest of my life thinking 'what if', 'if only' and 'why me?'"

So far, she has worked her way around her disability without special aids: the local car dealer fitted a knob to the wheel of her Volvo; she bought a press instead of an iron, and she has a "one-handed" tin opener from Argos.

But there are still things she wants to do, like tie her hair back, put on jewellery and do her own cuffs up. She can't face going back to work yet and she doesn't feel "safe" out of her own home.

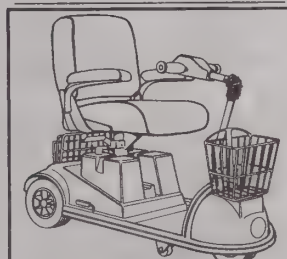
But these are plans for the future, not a mourning for the past. With her car, three cats, a dog, a horse, and Gavin, she keeps busy.

Getting the court case over with will be another "beginning" for her and Gavin. "Something like this seals the bond. It puts your whole life into perspective. You realise it can be taken away in a split second and that we're really very fragile."

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Vanessa Britton explains how to get started

Riding makes new friends

Many people with disabilities enjoy the sport of horseriding. You don't need to have had previous contact with horses to have a go as the emphasis is on individual experience and ability. In fact, some people who go to ride for the first time have never seen a horse before!

Kelly Proctor is a "star pupil" at the Riding for the Disabled Association's Magpie Centre in Norfolk, according to her instructor Moya Ludington.

When she was six she could not walk, talk or sit-up. Now, at 12, thanks to her riding sessions and her own enthusiasm, she can "walk, ride at walk and trot entirely on her own, and talk - a lot!"

"I like to play games on Mattie, my favourite pony," said Kelly, "and I also enjoy the exercises. When I leave school I'm going to help other people to ride."

So how do you go about it?

The Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA), founded in 1964, has about 800 groups all over the British isles. It gives any disabled adult or child who would benefit in general health or happiness the opportunity to ride or drive, either for free or for a nominal charge of 50p a session.

Equipment such as boots or hats can often be borrowed from the group.

Whereas in other sports your disability may prevent you from taking an active part, in riding it is purely ability which counts. Whether you can manage to walk, trot or



Jane Harnwell gets to know Mattie before lessons begin at the Magpie Centre in Norfolk.

canter or just sit on for a while, the achievement is accomplished by you and your horse or pony alone, and at your own pace.

The horse or pony can compensate for many disabilities. For example, if you cannot walk the horse provides mobility; if you cannot see, the horse sees for you - yet still enables you to take an active part in where you are going.

The horse also motivates, for he is keen to get on with the lesson's activities, yet obeys the rider's commands. And you can form a bond with him: he is a quiet, attentive

listener.

There aren't many disabilities or learning difficulties that exclude people from riding. In fact, it's

"After you've gone riding once you'll wonder why you never did before."

probably easier to list the conditions that might prevent someone from taking part: unhealed pressure sores; fragile bones; haemophilia; uncontrolled (by drugs) epilepsy; disinclination to ride after an experience.

To go riding you need medical consent from your doctor and parental consent if you are under 18.

Many schools for disabled children or adult training centres arrange for groups who want to ride to go to the riding school for weekly RDA sessions. But there is nothing to stop you, once you have your doctor's consent, from contacting the RDA. It will send you a list of RDA member groups and you can then get in touch with one in your area.

All members of the local RDA riding team are very friendly and helpful; they

really want you to enjoy yourself. They are used to people who are nervous at first and will introduce you to the horses and ponies gradually.

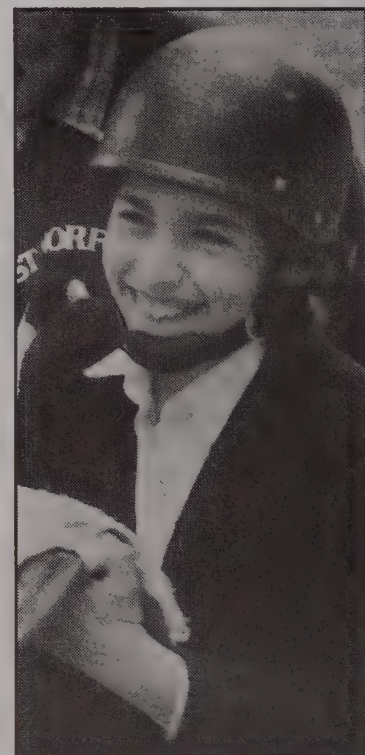
They will teach you how to respect horses and how to approach and handle them. They are very patient: you don't have to get on straight away!

Riding is an activity which can be taken at each individual's pace - there is nobody waiting for you to hit the ball back, just a horse or pony glad of a little attention.

When you get on the saddle you will soon learn to relax and your self-confidence will build quickly. Once you are confident, your ability to ride and manage your horse or pony will soon progress.

The many activities within the riding session make it fun. Games are played, like the egg and spoon race, or bending in and out of poles. Exercises help you relax and increase your general fitness without it being a chore.

There are RDA riding holidays and all sorts of shows, events and competitions. Some



Kelly Proctor likes saddling up as well as the ride. "I also enjoy the exercises."

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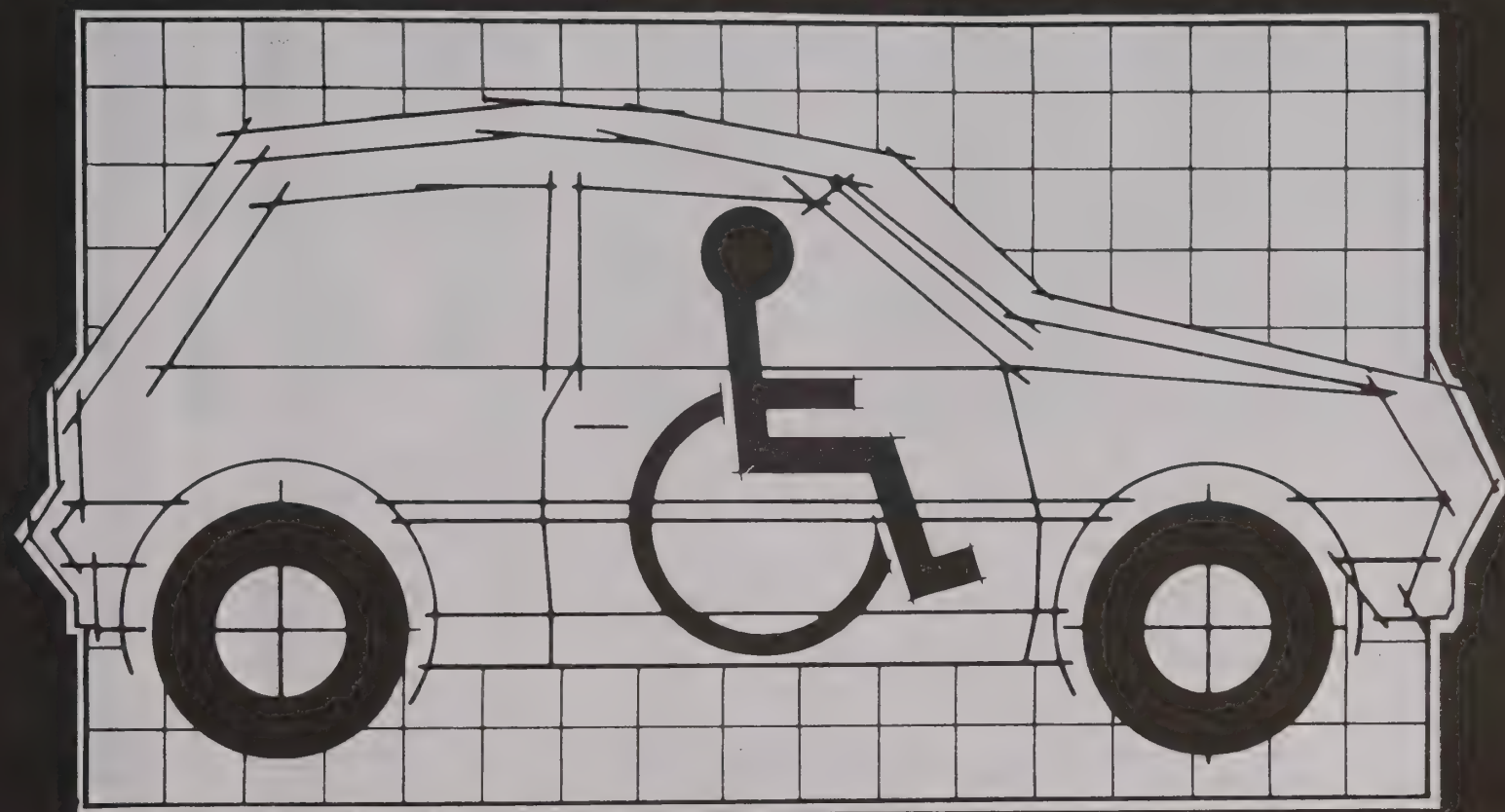
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people go on to do dressage and there is an RDA British dressage team which takes part in international events.

There is no reason why you couldn't become a riding instructor, or the more experienced RDA instructor - a new qualification introduced this year. After you've gone riding once, you'll wonder why you never did before.

Riding for the Disabled Association, Avenue "R", National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LR, tel: (0203) 696510
Vanessa Britton's book, Riding for the Disabled (Batsford £14.95), is published in July.

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Share Your Problems

with Margaret Morgan

Bringing '62 clubs into the 1990s



When referring to '62 Clubs in my February column I implied that they no longer existed. I received some spirited replies, especially from the president of the Nottingham '62 Club, Dr Ron Firman. My apologies to his club and to any others still functioning.

Ron Firman's letter, and others such as Robin and Eileen Venn's, highlight the need for similar clubs today, especially for young people with congenital disabilities and communication problems. Dr Firman wrote:

"I was amused and very slightly irritated by your remark that '62 Clubs were so successful that they no longer exist. The Nottingham '62 Club still exists, and is running on much the same lines as it always has, except that most of its original members have left.

I am sceptical about the

comforting claim that clubs closed because they had successfully inspired so much confidence and independence in their members that they no longer needed the club.

I suspect that the truth is both more prosaic and more complex. Like the 200 or so who left the Nottingham club, members of closed clubs left for a variety of reasons (eg dissatisfaction with what the club offered, unwillingness to accept the responsibilities demanded by '62 clubmanship, withdrawal of parental encouragement, illness, death etc), many of which had little to do with newly acquired independence.

In short, I do not think that we have enough evidence to know why clubs closed but I believe that, like existing clubs, they had their successes and their

failures. Ultimately many had to close because they failed to attract and train new members of sufficient calibre to take over the running of the club.

I agree there is no longer any need for segregated clubs but I feel there is still a need to encourage initiative and independence amongst congenitally disabled people. If viable '62 Clubs could be set up they would still be one way of achieving this."

"For some while Robin and I have felt that '62 Clubs are still needed for the 18-30 age group. We need only look at some of our neighbours to see how they seem to have missed out on the '62 Club-type experience. If they could join in the activities and take the responsibilities that were available when we were younger, we feel sure they would be helped back on to their feet."

Peter and Marianne West, founder members of the long-since defunct London '62 Club and the Association of '62 Clubs, commented:

"It seems significant that issues surrounding '62 clubmanship continue to surface nearly 30 years after the clubs' inception.

As older people will know, clubs grew out of an era of full employment when many people with cp were looking for a more fulfilling social life.

As the clubs developed, we began to see the uniqueness of their emerging philosophy: encouragement of independence (spending time away from home and parents) self-help and helping each other, responsibilities leading to self-respect and confidence building. Above all, knowing that a person with cp was in control and for the first time did not feel inadequate. This was something not easily achieved in other social settings and a reason why the '62 Club had to be separatist (though this was used in the '70s to its undoing).

We recognise that nowadays the more independent of us would associate ourselves with other groups, but this still does not address the difficulty of self-image when we have to compete with people who can communicate easily.

I have been keeping an eye on new projects developed in The Spastics Society, like the Alpha Group (local groups of and

for people with cp) and the Alternative Lifestyles courses (open to adults with physical disabilities) hoping that something will grow from them.

People's fundamental needs do not change a great deal and Peter and I believe there is still a need for '62 Club-type experiences which encourage young cp people to spread their wings. This may not be in '62 Clubs, but what about a resurgence of that philosophy in '92, with an updated profile and programme?"

Do write with your views.

I have also received a letter from a friendship service which has recently appointed Colin Keatley, himself disabled, to act as its representative. Frank White, director of International Introductions, emphasises that there is no discrimination between disabled and able-bodied clients. The aim is to forge friendships rather than romantic relationships, although if one leads to the other everyone will be happy.

International Introductions, tel: (0204) 387396. For information about your local Alpha Group contact Roy Dredge, Development and Research Officer (North), The Spastics Society, Rock House, Finchale Road, Framwellgate Moor, Durham DH1 5HE. Doreen Hinchcliffe is the Alternative Lifestyles Co-ordinator, tel: 071-387 9571.



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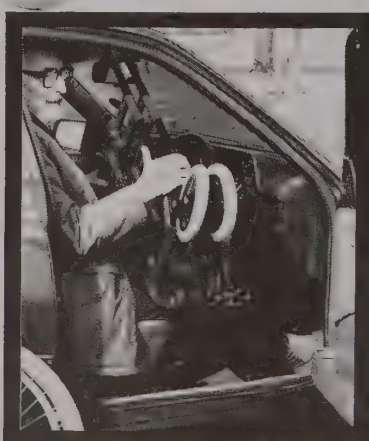
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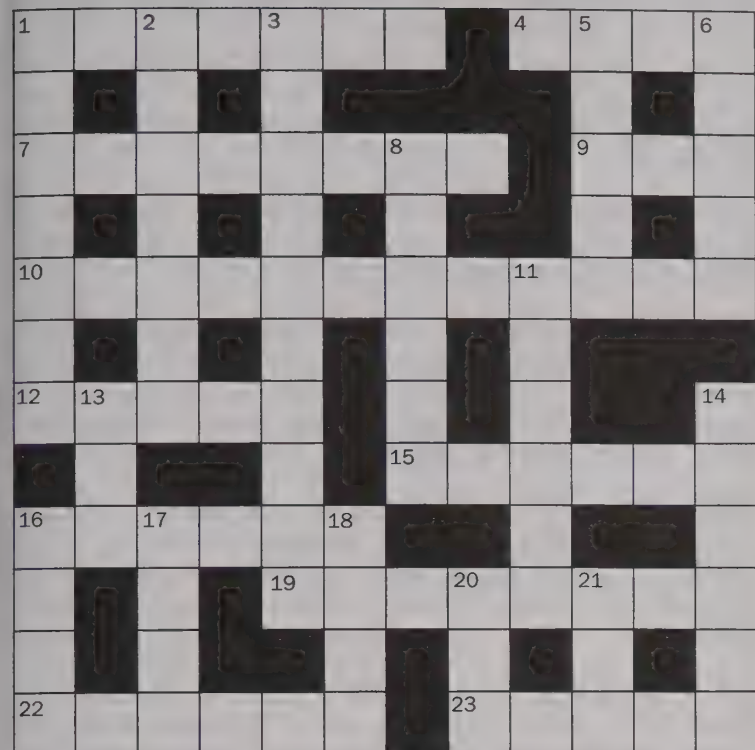
SDN



DN's crossword

Answers page 26

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



ACROSS

- 1 Head injuries group (7)
- 4 and bother (4)
- 7 Toilet (4,4)
- 9 Latin word for God (3)
- 10 Chat show hostess (5,7)
- 12 September is the month (5)
- 15 Unmarried cream? (6)
- 16 Infect or car (6)
- 19 Pachyderm (8)
- 22 Used for sewing (6)
- 23 From Amsterdam? (5)

DOWN

- 1 For catching whales (7)
- 2 Unsuccessful competitor (4,3)
- 3 Valuable (10)
- 5 Beneath (5)
- 6 Tale (5)
- 8 Vegetables, might be 11 down (6)
- 11 Parisian, for example (6)
- 13 Anger (3)
- 14 Be quiet! (4,2)
- 16 A runner or old? (4)
- 17 Rim (4)
- 18 11 down magazine (4)
- 20 Cat or dog (3)
- 21 Every one (3)

Win a £5 prize

Create-a-caption



With the help of Action for Blind People, traffic wardens are to learn the right way to guide blind and partially sighted people. But what else might this lot be doing? Is it Chinese Whispers or are they asking where to buy those hats? Answers by 13 June, address page 3.

...NEWS QUIZ... NEWS QUIZ ...NEWS QUIZ...

Answers page 26

- 1 Which black list was Liverpool Poly taken off?
- 2 Who had Nancy Reagan in knots?
- 3 How did Marks & Spencer cause controversy?
- 4 Which football team won

- the Rumbelow's Cup?
- 5 Which hospital said it would cut 600 jobs?
- 6 Which jewellery boss said his products were "crap"?
- 7 Which 1960's pop star died?
- 8 Who attacked schools for

- failing children?
- 9 How quickly did Farid Amorouch win the Wheelchair Marathon?
- 10 Who set up a computer company which is to employ only disabled people?

Hip-opping to a new lease of life

In the queue for a total hip replacement? Scared? Well, I've had one and this is what happened.

Before it, the Devil was twisting his trident in my screaming hip. Would my name ever come to the top of the waiting list?

Then the letter came telling me to come for assessment. I went through an exhaustive battery of tests on every part of my anatomy and physiology. A month later I was admitted.

I watched with envy the "done last week brigade" getting around on Zimmers. Now it was my turn. 7 am Thursday: showered, donned a theatre gown, had a skin prep and my wedding ring taped. Was the pencil marking on the right leg? (left in my case). "This is your pre-med. You'll feel sleepy." Too late to turn back.

Then, as if in a dream, I was taken along to the operating theatre. About mid-evening I "surfaced". During assessment I'd been primed what to expect, and it was all there. A Charnley's wedge was on intimate terms with my lower legs, and two dehydration bottles dripped painlessly into the back of my left hand.

One "angel" was giving me an injection, and another was checking my toes. I washed

my hands of the whole affair and drifted back into space. So comfortable!

Mid-afternoon next day, I rejoined the world, after thirty hours absence. "Who's a clever girl then?" my husband joked. I smiled smugly.

The drip was dripping painlessly, and the Devil and his trident had fled along with my arthritic pain. So had the last vestige of my modesty. Well, you can't play blushing maidens with your leg stuck straight out in front, pantieless, and the wedge in a strategic position.

For the next five days I lay on my sore back with my legs velcro-ed to the appliance, urgently needing a bed pan every few minutes.

I was no Green Goddess lithely swinging onto the pottie - more like a floundering hippo. A monkey pole helped, but my left arm was immobilised by the drip, and my operated leg had to stay unbent with toes and knee cap pointing forward. Dislocation threatened if I broke any rules.

After the fluid drip and the blood transfusion came out, the leg drains and I parted company.

Then the physiotherapist arrived.

"Right. In and out of bed, standing, then walking." "Walking!" I exclaimed,

thinking she'd got the wrong patient. "It's only my third day!"

"That's right," she agreed, and started to coach me how to do it.

I'd expected an ordeal. It wasn't. I was walking. Admittedly, I wasn't in the hikers' class, but on day 6 the Zimmer and I tottered off to the bathroom. I sat on a real loo.

Then it was 'Goodbye Zimmer' and 'Hello crutches'. I was a slow starter, but improved when I wore outdoor shoes. Then the dreaded moment - going up and down stairs. Enter the physiotherapist again: "Remember the righteous go up to Heaven, so going upstairs, start off with the good leg, then the operated leg followed by the crutches. Going down, it's crutches first, then the 'bad' leg going down to Hell, then the firm one."

Six weeks later I went back for a check-up. "Goodbye crutches! Hello sticks!" Soon it would be one stick. And then? I'm waiting for that.

Would I do the same again? Exchanging arthritic agonies for a few days discomfort and a few months limited activities, must be a good swap, and a new lease of life is a super bonus.

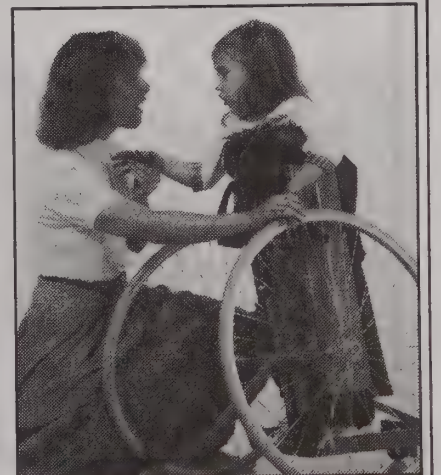
Doris Kirby

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CHECKOUT

Chris Davies reports

Independent living has many facets. For me it is realised via a live-in personal assistant. But for all that I can do via his hands and feet, it lacks the immediacy and sheer empowerment of doing it directly and instantly.

In the past, I've tried to control my environment through suck-and-puff mechanisms or touch switches. They have either been unreliable or so energy taxing that the whole operation becomes more trouble than it's worth.

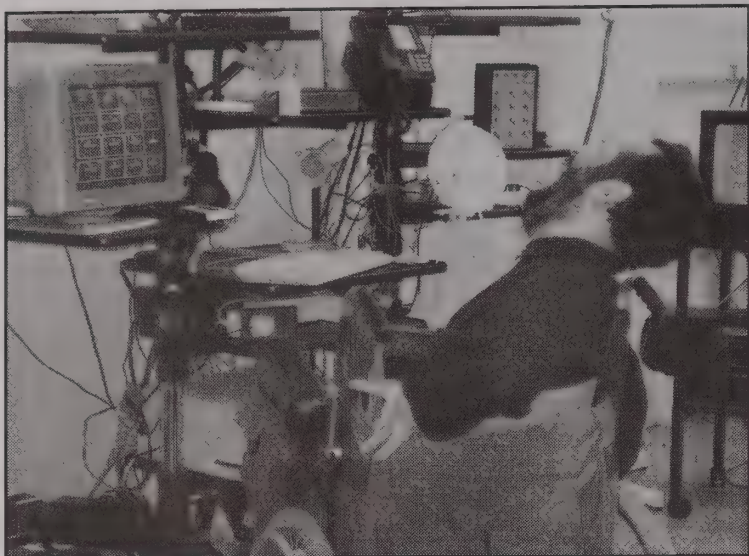
Now there's an alternative: speech control. After a thirty minute training session to enable the computer to identify my speech pattern, I found that I could operate a TV, video and telephone. All I needed to do was clearly pronounce the short command words which I had previously chosen for the computer to recognise and obey.

The training process, far from being a chore, was the best form of speech therapy I have ever come across. Indeed, it became a kind of intellectual game, trying to minimise the number of times it took for the computer to recognise my sound "footprint". Although the training programme identifies pre-selected command words, if any of these words prove particularly difficult to pronounce, any substitute may be made.

There are many applications

for this environmental control: page turners; mechanical orthopaedic beds; intercoms; curtains; alarm systems etc etc. The additional beauty of this system is that it may be oper-

software and wired microphone (£1,500); and infra-red command transmitter box (£375). This provides access to any domestic appliance with an infra-red receiver. The system



Talk to me: Chris using just a radio mike and transmitter.

ated entirely remotely. I wore a lapel microphone and radio transmitter which allowed me to operate the computer from anywhere in the room! Complete freedom.

The system's capacity is vast. The computer screen affords a 4 x 4 grid of command options, and software can be written for as many different grids as you like!

You may know that my speech is not unimpaired. If I can operate this system, there's a good chance that others could too. The person to contact is Roger Southall at Keep Able Foundation, Brentford, Middx.

Sadly, the system is not cheap. The basic components are an IBM 40-megabyte computer (£1,200); speechboard

is compatible with the Ferntech telephone (£350, including software). For complete freedom, a radio microphone will cost an additional £300.

There is no government funding (through the Health Department) for this system, but if you think it would be ideal for you and should be available, why not enlist the support of the Minister for Disabled People?

Roger Southall, Keep Able Foundation, tel: 081-994 6614.

Phil Ford, Ferntech Systems Ltd, tel: 051-708 0405.

Nicholas Scott, Minister for Disabled People, Department of Social Security, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS.

WHAT'S ON

Therapists employment: the effects of changes in the NHS on therapy services, a conference. 5 June at the Queens Hotel, Leeds. £60. Further information from the Events Unit, Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, 14 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4ED, tel: 071-242 1941.

Aromatherapy, a one day course on 13 June at Disabled Living Services, 4 St Chads Street, Manchester M8 8QA. £35. Contact Brenda Dickinson for more details, tel: 061-832 3678.

Building Friendships, a course for staff working with people with learning difficulties. 17-19 June at the Family Planning Association in London. £150. For further information contact David Simpson, FPA, Education and Training Dept, 27-35 Mortimer Street, London WIN 7RJ, tel: 071-636 7866.

Charities Forum, a one day conference. 18 June at the Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1. £45. More details from Jonathan Hardy, Events Organiser, Directory of Social Change, Radius Works, Back Lane, London NW3 1HL, tel: 071-435 8171.

1991 Mobility Roadshow. 21-23 June at the Transport and Road Research Laboratory in Berkshire. Free. For further information contact: MAVIS, Dept of Transport, TRRL, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG11 6AU, tel: (0344) 770463.

Training for Employment 1991, a conference on youth and adult training and enterprise. 26-27 June at UMIST. Costs on a sliding scale. For more details contact Melanie Miller, NCVO Policy Dept, 26 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HU, tel: 071-636 4066 ext 2134.

Association of Disabled Professionals, 20th AGM. 29 June at the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, 14 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4ED. Details from Miss Paddy Moon, 17a Trewsbury Road, Sydenham, London SE26 5DP, tel: 081-778 3599.

Cadbury's Strollerthon, a 12 mile sponsored walk in London in aid of One Small Step. 30 June. Details from One Small Step, FREEPOST, London SE16 4BR, tel: 071-232 2255.

Discovery '91, a chance for people with disabilities to try out the leisure facilities at Lee Valley Park for free. 3-4 July. Information line: (0992) 700766.

Reunion Day at Percy Hedley School in Newcastle. 6 July. Contact Roy Dredge, Rock House, Finchale Road, Framwellgate Moor, Durham DH1 5HE, tel: 091-386 2127.

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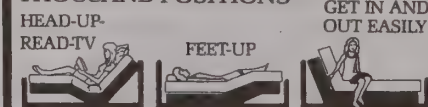
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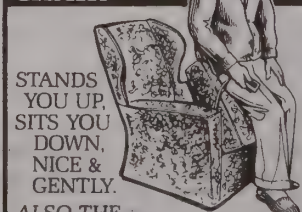
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AND NOW THE
AUTOMATIC
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SITS YOU
DOWN,
NICE &
GENTLY.



INFO

Cerebral Palsy Today is a new quarterly designed to keep anyone interested in cp, but without specialist knowledge, up-to-date with developments in research and the care, treatment and management of cp. Published by the Research and Development Division of The Spastics Society, the first few issues are free. For more details, send an SAE to the Editor, Cerebral Palsy Today, The Spastics Society, 16 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5HQ.

The **National Information Forum** has moved. Their new address is, Charitybase, The Chandlery, 50 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7QY, tel: 071-721 7672.

The **1991-2 Disability Rights Handbook** is now available. £4.50 (inc. p&p) from Publications, Disability Alliance, Universal House, 88-94 Wentworth Street, London E1 7SA.

The **National Trust** is organising a walk for disabled people at Formby on Merseyside on 6 July. For details, tel: (07048) 78591. The 1991 edition of *Information for Visitors with Disabilities*, sponsored by Barclays Bank, is free, with an SAE, from The National Trust, 36 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AS.

Music News, the newsletter of the National Music and Disability Information Service was relaunched in May. £8 a year for four issues. Make cheques payable to Dartington Hall Trust - National Music and Disability Information Service and return to NMDIS, c/o Dartington College of Arts, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6EJ.

Jobability helps people with disabilities in Haringey. They offer support and advice on open employment. Details from Jobability, 551b High Road, Tottenham, London N17 6SB, tel: 081-808 4964.

MOVES

Mary Holland (ex Mencap) has joined RADAR as the Assistant Director - Disability Services. **Sally Levett** is the new Director of Information and Appeals with the John Grooms Association.

COURSES

Exeter University
Certificate in Disability Studies
(Mental Handicap. CCETSW Accreditation applied for)

This 6 month (30 day) course is suitable for first line managers in NHS and Social Services in preparation for changes following The Community Care Act.

Details: David McDermott, Department of Psychology, Church Lane, Exeter. Tel: (0392) 403177.

FOR SALE

STANNAH STAIRLIFT. Right hand 15 feet long, 16 steps. Good condition. £600 or nearest offer. Tel: (0903) 33217 (Sussex).

NEW SUNRISE MEDICAL Wheelchair, battery powered: very versatile. Purchased Sept. 1990. Used only 6 times. Cost £3,200. Any reasonable offer considered. Tel: (0264) 860272 (Hants).

BOOSTER TOWN AND COUNTRY, 3 wheel scooter. Two years' use. V.G. Cond. £600 ono. Including battery charger. Tel: (0892) 546188 (Kent).

TALBOT RANCHO B reg. Adapted for a passenger in a wheelchair. £2,500 ono. Tel: (0582) 769213 (eves only).

EVEREST & JENNINGS Scooter. Runaround 3 wheel scooter. Very good condition. £495. Tel: (0442) 862410 (Birkhamstead, Herts).

EASIRISER AND RECLINER arm-chair. Operated by electric. Excellent condition. £500. Tel: (0603) 898839 (Norfolk).

CHAIRMAN METRO, C reg. 40,000 miles, MOT'd. Nice condition for the year. Carries passenger in wheelchair. Driver's seat made by Mobility. £3,750 ono. Tel: (0745) 886624.

CROWNHYTHE AUTOMATIC electric bed. 3 ft, plus grey draylon head board. Unmarked condition, elevating upper and lower sections independently. Little used. Cost £1,200, will accept £600. Tel: (0992)23088 (Hertfordshire).

ORTHOKINETIC TRAVEL CHAIR, suitable for a child to teenager. Will fit into front of most cars. £300 or nearest offer. Tel: (0246) 209253 (Derbyshire).

CARCHAIR plus hydraulic lift. Will fit Nisan Prairie, Escort Mk 3 or 4, Volvo 3 series etc. Original cost over £3,000, used 6 times, as new. Any reasonable offer. Tel: (0202) 527829 (Bournemouth).

FIND-A-FRIEND

For Find A Friend ads please send a cheque or postal order for £3 payable to *Disability Now* with your ad. This is to help cover our costs.

LONELY YOUNG disabled man, seeks friendship with an unattached woman, preferably under thirty years old, either disabled or able-bodied. I have my own car, a very responsible job and varied interests including sport and music. Please write enclosing a photograph and telephone number. London area: Box No. 349.

MIDDLE AGED, wheelchair bound female requires able-bodied or slightly disabled friends of both sexes (35-50). I am reportedly intelligent but I can get intellectual stimulation from books. I need someone to share trips to the theatre and pub or conversation over a glass of wine at home. My other interests are Scrabble, music and computers. I need to use special transport so you must live in the South Wales area. Box No. 350.

FEMALE 56, young at heart, interested in people, writing, music, theatre and

VOLKSWAGEN KOMBI minibus, Devon Conversion, interability under-floor ramp, wheelchair tracking and clamps, curtains, 5 seats, safety belts, G registration, 5,500 miles, 78 BHP, 5 speeds, emergency door, warranty, slate blue, price negotiable. Tel: (089682) 2495.

RANGE RIDER 1988 petrol-driven trike, blue, go anywhere, chunky tyres, wheelchair carrier, shopping basket and battery charger. Regularly serviced. Delivery possible. £1,200 ono. Tel: (0742) 721017 between 6pm and 8pm (Sheffield).

VESSA TRAVVLA indoor/outdoor electric wheelchair with kerb climber and battery charger. As new, used only once. £1,000 ono. Tel: (0379) 384301 (Suffolk).

NEW QUIKIE RX from £830, 16in or 18in width. Choice of colour. Tel: Peter Norfolk (0252) 547939.

ACTIV 2000, electronic hand controlled leg exerciser with adjustable speed, tension and direction. £700. Tel: 081-878 8269.

VESSA MARK 2 powered wheelchair complete with batteries, charger and weather cover. In very good condition. £395. Tel: (044284) 3334 (Hertfordshire).

STAIRLIFT, made by Sunrise Medical. Cost £2,300. £1,000 ono. Tel: (0732) 864061.

GIMSON STAIRLIFT, straight left hand wall, 15 ft rise, only used 3 times, new in July 1990. Price £1,465. Will take £800. Tel: (0959) 62934 (Westerham).

BROOKES STAIRLIFT to cater for 11 treads and motorised platform to facilitate access to landing. 2 years old, in perfect condition/good safety features. £200. Tel: 081-440 5365.

FIAT FIORINA G registration. Converted to take a wheelchair. Electric winch. 2 side seats. Telescopic ramps. 7,300 miles. £5,650 or nearest offer. Tel: 071-263 2141.

reading biographies. I am disabled by polio so I do not get out and about very much any more. I only wish to write to females with similar interests. Box No. 351.

WIDOW 49, with cerebral palsy and in a wheelchair, would like a penpal for friendship. Enjoys music, sewing, chatting and corresponding. Box No. 352.

MALE 40, slightly disabled from poliomyelitis, I would like to meet an intelligent lady (25-35) with a zest for life and own interests but not a workaholic. I like sport (competed in National Disabled Games), intelligence games (ex-Mensa member), and writing computer programs (to solve puzzles). Box No. 353.

CATHOLIC WOMAN, 56, 5ft 2in. Separated with a private house. I have had a stroke which makes it difficult for me to speak, read or write. I have been a vegetarian since I was nine and am a non smoker and non drinker. I am lonely with a dog for company. I would like to meet a man aged 66. Box No. 354.

To reply to a Find-A-Friend indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private and Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send to DN, address on page 3.

WANTED

EXPLORING DISABILITY AND RELATIONSHIPS ON TV

Are you interested in being part of a group which explores the attitudes and relationships between disabled and non-disabled people?

We're looking for people who are disabled or who live or work closely with disabled people to participate in a Channel Four series. The programmes will involve some role play and discussion and require you to be available for at least three weekends in June/July.

If you're interested, please contact Jane on 0800 717170 in office hours or write, giving a daytime phone number, to:

The Same Production Company Ltd, PO Box 444, Bath BA1 2TN.

SEND US YOUR SMALLS...

...and make a big impression. Small ads in *DN* reach over 80,000 people for just £3 a line (minimum £9). Please don't send money with your ad - we will invoice you after it goes in. For Find-A-Friend please send a £3 cheque or postal order payable to *Disability Now* with your ad. Telephone Catherine Holloway on 071-636 5020 ext 227.

WAYFARER POWERED WHEELCHAIR with charger. Right hand control. Never used. £2,500 (cost £3,750). Tel: (0926) 496628 (Solihull).

ELSWICK ENVOY automatic specialised car for wheelchair driver. Excellent condition, 28,000 miles. P.A.S., mini 1,000 engine. £3,500 ono. Tel: (0253) 402815.

AUSTIN MINIVAN takes wheelchair via ramp. Wheel clamp straps. W reg. MOT November, good condition. 50,000 miles. £1,200 ono. Tel: (0706) 841904 (Oldham).

BEC TARGA powered chair, 17 months old, headrest, well maintained, cost £2,030. £900 ono. Tel: (0787) 60718 (Essex).

APRIL 1990 G REG Renault Extra (5) 1,400 cc, 5 speed gear box, takes 3 people plus one wheelchair passenger. 6,000 miles. £7,750 ono. Tel: (0472) 752391.

Disability Now is not responsible for claims made in the advertisements it prints and all readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.

NIAGARA MASSAGE PADS, hand units. Adjustamatic massage beds, reclining massage chairs, nearly new, half prices, reconditioned, year warranty, guaranteed first class goods. Part exchanges, repairs, COD, Access, Visa accepted. Tel: (0460) 61157.

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIRS scooters, battery cars. All makes, models wanted and for sale. Nearly new, hardly used from half price. Demonstrations and collections. Free advice. All areas. Contact Mr Gibbons Tel: 021-357 4965 anytime

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Unit E3 & E4, Shield Business Centre, Shield Drive, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9EX
Tel: 081-569 8955

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How would you like to learn about health and nutrition and then become a consultant. This is open to men and women, able or disabled. Work your own hours. A good opportunity not to be missed.
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE TO: Mobility Vehicle Search, Freepost 474, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire WD6 2FP

SOCIAL SERVICES STAFF TRAINING CENTRE TRAINING DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

(Learning Disability)
£9,180-£9,824 pa inc
PO1A

Job Share: 17½ hours per week

We require an experienced trainer with a background in the learning disability field. Our staff training programme in this area of work is well-developed and supported by government community training grants. The department's staff training centre in Dollis Hill, NW2, provides a wide-range of in-house courses and has the necessary resources to support training and its development. An understanding of the issues and problems of learning disability as well as a commitment to equal opportunities in the context of a multi-racial/cultural community are essential.

For and informal discussion ring John Ranken, Senior Training Development Officer on 081 450 1366.

Please quote Ref: SS4082B

SPECIAL NEEDS DIVISION Learning Disability Section

IRISH SOCIAL WORKERS FOR THE DAY CARE TEAM (ADULTS)

Qualified £15,060-£19,155 pa inc

Applicants for this post must exhibit a proven commitment to consumer orientated services, knowledge of the cultural implications of Learning Disability and the challenge that will face services in a post Griffiths world.

We need to provide a sensitive and effective service to families of all racial groups with a member who has a learning disability. Candidates will require a CQSW.

Social Workers with knowledge of the languages and cultures of Irish communities in Brent are particularly welcomed.

Postholders would be expected to work with all racial groups.

Race Relations Act, Section 5(2)(d) applies.

For further information please contact Manny Adams on 081 900 5278.

Please quote Ref: SS1072

For an application form and further details for both posts please contact the social Services Department, Personnel & Training Division, Room 210, Brent House, 349-357 High Road, Wembley HA9 6BT. Tel: 081 900 5266 (24 hour answerphone).

Closing date: 27 June 1991



Brent is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications are welcome from candidates irrespective of race, nationality, ethnic or national origins, age, marital status or gender and from lesbians and gay men and disabled persons. Job sharers welcome.

0.5 Lecturer Post. Adult Education Worker for People with Sensory Disabilities (i.e. Visual and Hearing)

To promote access to adults with sensory disabilities to education provision. To develop the educational counselling and advisory role within the Institute to ensure that we move positively towards a fully comprehensive service for people with visual and/or hearing disabilities.

Salary: £11,589.00-£19,155.00 (pro-rata including London Weighting).

Application forms and Job Descriptions available from the Deputy Senior Administrative Officer, Hackney AEL, Woodberry Down Branch, Woodberry Grove, N4 2SH. Closing date for applications Friday 28th June 1991 5pm. This information is available on tape and in braille.

SERVICES

WORKMATE EMPLOYMENT NEWS

WORKMATE is the latest quarterly Magazine providing you with news, views. Written and read by people with disabilities interested in employment.

Excel Employment Information pack £4.50

Excel development - A High Street presence. An informative paper describing the development and suggestions for people planning employment services.

Details of both from Liz McReynolds 081-348 8141.

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All tail-lift equipped with floor
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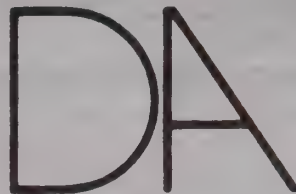
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081-958 9657 (4pm-9pm)



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Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2PB
Telephone: (0473) 226950



DAERA is a leading national organisation providing information and advice on social security issues for people with disabilities and carers, producing the annual Disability Rights Handbook and other publications, plus analysing and monitoring legislative/policy changes.

DAERA requires

1 full-time - 35 hrs pw and 1 part-time - 21 hrs pw

RIGHTS WORKERS

DAERA's Rights Workers provide advice to claimants and advisers, keep up to date with benefit changes and produce written material as appropriate. The full-time worker is expected to tutor on social security training courses. Roughly half our advice work comes from Greater London for which we receive funding from LBGS. Both posts offer the opportunity to develop your skills, expertise, and policy interests, in a stimulating and supportive environment.

Candidates require extensive knowledge of the social security system, substantial experience of advising and representation, plus ability to write clearly and succinctly. The full time post requires experience of teaching.

Applications from people with disabilities positively welcome.

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For job description and application form contact: Michael Daly, DAERA, Universal Hse, 88/94 Wentworth St, E1 7SA; Tel: 071-247 8776.

Closing date 17/6/91

DISABILITY ALLIANCE

EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING Social Services Department

MANAGER

YEW TREE LODGE
(UNIT FOR ADULTS WITH A PHYSICAL DISABILITY)

Salary: Up to £18,762 p.a. inclusive

Yew Tree Lodge is a 24 bedded short stay unit, combines flexible packages of respite care with active rehabilitation designed to enable people with a physical disability to continue to live in the community. We need a Manager with:

- * Professional qualifications CSS, CQSW or PIP (OT) or other relevant qualification.
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- * Experience in the field of disability.
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- * Drive and initiative to carry this specialised unit into a new phase of community oriented services.

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For further information, please contact the Principal Officer (Physical Disability), Ms M Convery on (04024) 52555.

Application form and job description obtainable from the Personnel Section, Social Services Department, Mercury House, Romford RM1 3DU. Telephone Romford (0708) 766999 Ext 4573. Out of office hours Romford (0708) 722560. Please quote ref. SS1411. Closing date for receipt of applications 14th June 1991.

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Harlesden
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Grade B
**£11,809 -
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Previous experience in housing or another similar environment is desirable. However, dealing with the public and having an understanding of the particular needs of a multi-racial community is essential. The postholder will need to demonstrate a variety of skills which include:-

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Closing date: 14th June 1991. Interviews: 21 June 1991.

For further information and application form, please contact Elona Bonnick, PCHA, 1A St Mary's Road, Harlesden, London NW10. Tel: 081-965 7011.



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Holiday Apartments - and Timeshare
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Try a **WINGED FELLOWSHIP** Holiday in Britain or Overseas. Great fun and full care provided. Write for free colour brochure. Winged Fellowship, Angel House, 20/32 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD, tel: 071-833 2594.

MAR Y SOL, Los Cristianos, Tenerife. Wheelchair accessible apartments and studios to rent or buy in luxury complex. Heated pool with hoist, restaurant, health treatments. Video available. Cheap flights. Sue Abbott, 123 Coppermill Road, Wraysbury, Staines, Middx TW19 5NX, tel: (0753) 685718.

NORTH DEVON, self-catering cottages sleeping 4-6 (2 specially designed for wheelchairs) fully equipped and heated - linen provided. Peaceful country setting for touring Exmoor, Dartmoor and Devon Coast. Brochure from South Coombe Farm, Witheridge, Tiverton, Devon EX16 8QL, tel: (0884) 860302.

HIGHLAND HOLIDAYS - RED CROSS HOUSE, INVERNESS, offers Respite Care and Activity Holidays from March to November to adults with disabilities - from 16 years of age. A 24 hour Care Facility is provided by skilled Care Staff and Volunteers. Accommodation is single hotel standard bedrooms. Whether your requirements are for outdoor adventure or something a little quieter, why not contact us for details of what we have to offer? For further information and Holiday Brochure, please contact the Principal, Red Cross House, Mackintosh Road, Inverness IV2 3TX or telephone (0463) 234939.

For a trouble-free holiday with all the family try:
ASHWELLTHORPE HALL HOTEL a discreetly adapted manor house set in acres of beautiful grounds. 22 bedrooms - licensed bars - free use of wheelchairs - mini-bus.
Tel: (050841) 324
or write to: The Manager
Ashwellthorpe Hall Hotel
Ashwellthorpe
Norwich NR16 1EX

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Wheelchair accessible twin bedded accommodation. Swimming pool, adapted minibus, plus various trips and outings included. For full details send for a free colour brochure to: Daystar Holidays Ltd, 26 Scotts Way, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5RG or telephone (0892) 25133.

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BRITTANY COTTAGE to let. Fully adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6. Details C Hodgson. Tel: (0924) 454300.

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Newly opened and fully refurbished, **PORTLAND HOUSE** is a fine Edwardian home offering spacious accommodation excellent food and warm welcome. We will ensure your most enjoyable holiday.
LEVEL ACCESS ROOM FULLY ENSUITE. TV etc. Private parking, perfect location for discovering this beautiful countryside (town centre 400 yards).
B&B £15.50 PP. With dinner £20 PP.
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A unique 64 page guide detailing access dependable "Wheelchair friendly", Self-Catering Holiday Properties, Hotels, Guest Houses, Farms and Activity Holiday Centres for all ages.
Well printed and in a handy A5 size, price £2.45 inc p&p. Send cheque or postal order to **Access Holiday Guide, 7 Roundberry Drive, Salcombe, Devon TQ8 8LY.**

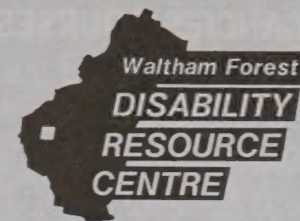
NEW MILTON, Hampshire. Fully equipped, completely wheelchair accessible, self-catering 2 bedroom bungalow. Sleeps 6. Excellent site, near sea with access to New Forest and Bournemouth. Superb facilities. 100 yards from chalet. Details Mr P Cash, tel: (0425) 72055.

WANTED

2 BEDROOM BUNGALOW, Garden, Level access (for wheelchair). To rent or Council Exchange (in our area) for 1 bed ground floor flat. For more details contact Gary and Sue, 17 Keble Lodge, Chapel Street, Brighton BN2 1SU, tel: (0273) 680941.

DISABLED COUPLE with cat, seek ground floor wheelchair accessible accommodation to rent. South Bucks/Thame/Oxford. References available. Tel: (0203) 594096 or (0831) 586180. (No swaps.)

Did you know that *Disability Now* is a non-profit making newspaper and welcomes donations? If you can help write to *Disability Now*, address on page 27.



A Centre where disabled people are working together to develop our own resources, and to change attitudes and existing services to better meet our needs.

SESSIONAL ACTIVITY STAFF

We are seeking to appoint a number of temporary, part-time staff to lead groups of people with disabilities in a variety of activities under the following headings:

Communications	Disability Arts	Educational Courses
New Technology	Management of Disability	Personal Care
Disability Politics	Sports and Recreation	Vocational Training

We are also seeking qualified Counsellors who are people with disabilities.

Terms and rates of pay are equivalent to those offered by local Adult Education.

We are particularly interested to receive applications from people with disabilities themselves, and from ethnic minority applicants.

If you think you could offer to lead activities please send us full details, together with your experience to Mrs. Khan, at the Disability Resource Centre, 1a Warner Road, Walthamstow, E17 7DY. Tel: 081-520-8347 (minicom available).

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

Clerical & Telephone Marketing Opportunities in Central Nottingham

Starting salaries between £4,707 - £6,543. Full/Part time.

The establishment of a central House to House operation has created a range of opportunities within our new Community Fundraising Department.

The posts will be recruited between now and September as the responsibility for our national House to House programme is gradually transferred from the present regional structure. Early applications are invited for the following posts. The appointments will take effect over the next 6 months.

Clerical Vacancies. People with experience of clerical work with a flexible attitude are required to handle a range of activities, including customer enquiries, data entry, research for potential collectors from electoral register and in the mail room.

Telephone Marketing Vacancies. People with a good telephone manner to recruit volunteer collectors.

Further details and application forms are available from Ted Pallot, The Spastics Society, Newlands House, Mount Street, Nottingham NG1 6FT.

We very much welcome applications from people with disabilities.

WORKING TOWARDS EQUALITY

CENTRAL EQUALITIES TEAM - CENTRAL EQUALITIES TEAM

Central Equality Officer (Disabilities)

PO1 -PO4 intend to appoint on PO4
Salary: £20,910 - £22,446

Haringey Council is concerned to ensure that people with disabilities are given equality of opportunity in employment, in access and in service delivery across all services which are vital to their needs.

The Council has recently restructured its equalities structure into a central equalities team with officers covering all of the following issues: Disabilities, Lesbian & Gay, Race, Under 7's and Women.

Haringey is proud of its achievements in the area of equal opportunities. However, progress on disabilities issues have not been as significant as in other areas. Much remains to be achieved in this area.

We are looking for a Central Equality Officer (Disabilities) to programme and co-ordinate the Council's activities in this area. You will need to be a good organiser, a self starter and capable of working under pressure.

You should have an intimate knowledge of disabilities issues, experience in disabilities work and committed to ensuring better local services for people with disabilities.

This post is reserved for applicants with a disability.

All posts are open to job-sharing unless specified. Applicants may apply with or without a job-sharing partner.

For an application form and further details please contact the Staffing Section, Chief Executive Service, Haringey Council, Civic Centre, High Road, London N22 4LE. Telephone: 081-862 2977 (24 hour answering phone). For an informal discussion about this post please contact Fauzia Saeed on 081-862 2944.
Closing date: 14 June 1991.

HARINGEY COUNCIL

"Haringey is working towards becoming an equal opportunities employer"

Jobs

THE REAL EASTENDERS

Newham, situated in the heart of East London, encompasses many amenities and facilities with exciting developments in Docklands and many other parts of the Borough. We also enjoy excellent transport links, through Stratford, Plaistow, East Ham and other sites, so you can reach us by road, rail, underground and even by air via the City Airport.

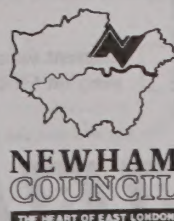
Newham Council is committed to working with and for our busy, friendly, multi-racial and multi-cultural community and we constantly seek to enhance the quality of our services.

Newham Council has a regular and exciting selection of job opportunities, to suit all tastes, ranging from Auditors to Watersports Instructors, from Administrators to Youth Workers.

We are constantly striving to achieve equality of opportunity for all sections of the community, both as an employer and a provider of services. Aware of the disadvantages that people can suffer in employment, we seek to combat discrimination in all its manifestations. Applications for jobs are particularly encouraged from members of many of the minority groups known to be under-represented in the workforce and these include members of the Asian, African, Caribbean and other ethnic minority people, women, people with disabilities and Lesbians and Gay Men.

Watch for our regular job advertisements placed in national, professional, minority and the free local press or check our weekly Vacancy Bulletin at local libraries, Community Centres and Council Offices including East Ham Town Hall reception. Details of many jobs can also be found at local Job Centres.

So why not think about joining the cast of the "Real Eastenders"!



We positively welcome applications from all sections of the community. Job sharers welcome.

Striving for Equality

TO ADVERTISE YOUR VACANCIES/COURSES

Please contact the Advertisement Manager, Richard Gresham, Kingslea Press Limited, 12 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 2XU. Telephone 071- 252 1362. Fax: 071- 237 8019.

Deadlines for July issue: booking by 14 June, camera ready artwork/copy by 19 June.

art link

ART LINK Project Worker

Approx. 23 hours per week
£12,747 per annum pro rata (pay review pending)

Art Link provides and develops arts opportunities for people with disabilities throughout the West Midlands and is seeking an experienced committed arts worker as part of a team co-ordinating a range of practical project work.

We positively welcome applications from all disabled candidates and older people. Our office space has good access and we will endeavour to provide all necessary training, services and adaptations.

Closing date for applications: 14th June 1991.
Interviews: 25th June 1991.

For further details contact Art Link, The Garage Arts & Media Centre, 1 Hatherston Street, Walsall WS1 1YB or telephone 0922 616566 (Minicom). Details are also available on cassette and in large print.

Art Link has an active policy of Equal Opportunities.

NEW JOBS FOR THE NINETIES IN LEEDS VOLUNTARY ACTION - LEEDS

If you can work under pressure, develop new initiatives, manage change, and relate to a broad range of people, Voluntary Action-Leeds would welcome an application from you for the following new projects/posts:

CARE FOR CARERS

Funded for four years through the Urban Programme to develop information and support services in Inner City South Leeds and to involve carers in Community Care Planning. One Development Worker (£12,747) and half-time Admin. Officer (£8,775 pro rata). Ref DN/C.

CONSULTANCY ON CONTRACTS

Funded by Advancing Good Management to provide consultancy to voluntary organisations throughout West Yorkshire, but with special reference to the Task Force area of Harehills and Chapeltown in Leeds, who wish to prepare for bidding for contracts - either competitive or negotiated. (Salary based on £14,160) Ref. DN/M.

VOLUNTARY SECTOR JOINT PLANNING

Six half-time posts (£14,160 pro rata) and half-time Admin. Officer (£8,775 pro rata) who will be employed by various key agencies on behalf of Voluntary Sector Forums to provide officer support to the Forums with particular reference to Community Care Planning. Applications will be welcome for full time post(s) combining two half-time posts. Ref. DN/J.

Full time posts are available for job share. Applications will be considered for a full time post in relation to the two half-time Admin. Officer posts.

Closing date 10th June, 1991. For further information and application forms please contact VA-L, 229 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 9LF. Tel. 0532 448921, stating which post or posts you are interested in and quoting the post reference.

VA-L welcomes your application irrespective of your race, marital status, sex, or any disability you may have.

EFL teachers needed: for ESP/EAP at Leon University, Nicaragua, Oxford's twin town.
One or two year contracts.
Experience and good Spanish a must.
Contact Lorna Edwards, Town Hall, Oxford.
Closing date June 30.

SITUATIONS WANTED

SPECIAL EDUCATION HEAD TEACHER. EARLY RETIRED. SKILLS. CONTACTS. COMMUNICATOR. SEEKS PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT. EAST MIDLANDS BASED. BOX NO C1.

SPECIAL NOTICE

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TEL: 0323 765875 FOR A BROCHURE OR WRITE TO, UNIT 23, POTTS MARSH INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, EASTBOURNE ROAD, WESTHAM, PEVENSEY, EAST SUSSEX, BN24 5NH.

Is the postcode on your Disability Now label wrong? If so, please help us to save postage by returning your label with the correct postcode added.

NEWS QUIZ ANSWERS

1. The US Treasury's black list for trading with Iraq 2. Her unofficial biographer Kitty Kelley 3. It cut 850 jobs 4. Sheffield Wednesday 5. Guy's Hospital in London 6. Gerald Ratner 7. Steve Marriott of the Small Faces 8. Prince Charles 9. 1 hour 52 minutes 10. British Telecom

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. Headway 4. Fuss 7. Rest room 9. Deo 10. Oprah Winfrey 12. Ninth 15. Single 16. Beetle 19. Elephant 22. Needle 23. Tulip
DOWN: 1. Harpoon 2. Also ran 3. Worthwhile 5. Under 6. Story 8. Onions 11. French 13. I re 14. Belt up 16. Bean 17. Edge 18. Elle 20. Pet 21. All

Renew your subscription in seconds!

Did you know you could renew your DN subscription by Access or Visa over the phone? Call Gayle Mooney or Karen King on 071-383 4575.



POLYTECHNIC ADVICE CENTRE

Disabilities Coordinator (Half-Time)

£11,214-£13,584 pa pro rata (Ref. A676)

We are looking for someone with personal or relevant experience of the needs and the problems of students with disabilities to assist us in the provision of enhanced access to higher education for this important client group.

You will join the Polytechnic Advice Centre's expanding Equal Opportunities Unit and will be expected to provide specialist support for both students and staff of the Polytechnic, including pre and post entry counselling for clients with a wide range of physical disabilities.

For application form (returnable by 24 June 1991) contact the Personnel Department, Wolverhampton Polytechnic, Molineux Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SB. Tel. 0902 321049 (ansaphone).

We welcome applications from women and ethnic minority candidates.

WOLVERHAMPTON POLYTECHNIC

Chief Executive's Department

ADMINISTRATIVE AND INFORMATION OFFICER

£12,240 - £13,353 p.a. inc.

We are establishing our Disability Unit. This post is targeted for a person with a disability. Minicom only available on 081-527 5544 - 9.30 am to 5.00 pm. Details available on tape.

We require someone with direct experience of disability to be responsible for all our administration: you must be able to deal with figures, and have good communication skills. The ability to type is essential, as is a willingness to adapt to new technology.

You will need to work to tight deadlines as a member of this very busy team, and understand the needs of people with disabilities. The office is wheelchair accessible.

Closing date: 15.7.91. Ref: H1199/DN

► For an application form and further details apply to The Recruitment Officer, Personnel Department, Town Hall, Forest Road, Walthamstow, London E17 4JF. Tel: 081-531 8899 (24 hour answering service).

This post is available for Job Share

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF



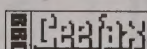
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

Waltham Forest serves a multi-racial community and welcomes applications from women, black and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, lesbians and gay men to help build a representative workforce.

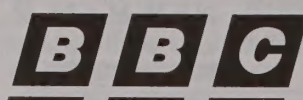
Fairness, Impartiality, Honesty

All things for which the BBC is known. And to which we've added Equality of Opportunity.

To help ensure that people with disabilities know what's on offer, the BBC are now publishing weekly details of all vacancies open to the public. If you would like a regular copy, please write (quote ref 6427/DI) to BBC Equal Opportunities, Room 418, Henry Wood House, 3-6 Langham Place, London W1A 1AA.



Current vacancies can also be seen on CEEFAX page 696.



We are an equal opportunities employer

Head of Structural Section
Wood House/Woodlands
06 - £30,316

Structural Section works to the Civil Engineer and manages the design and construction of all civil and structural engineers. The role is to maintain a high standard of expertise within the Section and to ensure that the Section is able to provide a high standard of service to the public. The Section is responsible for the design and construction of all civil and structural engineers. The role is to maintain a high standard of expertise within the Section and to ensure that the Section is able to provide a high standard of service to the public.

Secretary Facilities Management White City
£9485 - £11,101 by 5 incs

Do you fancy being part of an exciting and friendly team in a new and expanding Department? Have you thought about what goes on behind the scenes of the BBC? If so, we have a fantastic opportunity for you. The new work doesn't end there; all these people need furniture, heating, lighting, telephones, mail facilities, feeding and a list goes on. Facilities Management Department is in charge of all this. They are looking for an enthusiastic

Radio Journalist BBC Radio WM
BBC in The Midlands
Birmingham
£11,491 - £19,242
Plus an allowance of £1326

We're proud of our new standards at Radio WM.

Grammes
£904 - £21,906
£1,637

Recently qualified accountants would be particularly interested for this vacancy. The successful candidate would be responsible for the development and maintenance of financial and management accounting systems in the Network Radio and Local stations in Manchester. The holder will provide advice and information to all managers in these areas. Sound knowledge of budgeting and management accounting systems is essential.

Permanent Accounting & Central Services
£5,847 - £20,528
£3,681

Those in the final stages of studying for professional qualification is required to join the central accounting section of the maintenance and development of the main finance mini-computer system. The postholder will work closely with the Head of Finance, North on the provision of financial information for the above posts. The postholder will also be responsible for the provision of sound communication and management skills. You will be joining a dynamic and progressive team of six qualified staff and a similar number of part-qualified experienced staff with a strong team spirit.

Radio Journalist BBC CWR
BBC in The Midlands
Coventry
£11,491 - £19,242
Plus an allowance of £1326

BBC CWR is looking for an enthusiastic journalist to join its busy news team. Candidates should be able to produce a strong and accurate news story and be able to offer ideas for new programmes. You'll need to understand the day-to-day needs of the local community and be able to work long hours. We are looking for a reporter who should have a good broadcasting voice and a willingness to immerse yourself in the local community to find those exclusive stories. You must have a current driving licence and a knowledge of the editorial area of BBC CWR is desirable. This position may be filled by a woman or a man.

THE NATIONAL COLLEGE

COURSES:

A full range of courses for students with physical and sensory disabilities, residential and day.
CPVE, GCSE, BTEC (First Level and National), A level, RSA, City and Guilds, LCC, Pitmans; access courses (pre-degree) in Art, Engineering Studies, Business Studies, Social Sciences.
Course can be broadened with subjects taught at Tile Hill College of Further Education.

ACADEMIC FACILITIES:

A wide range of computer and Information Technology facilities in the Supported Self Study Centre (including all-day tutor support).
Three networked Computer Suites to support all courses.
Art, Photography and Science Suites.
Extensive video production and editing facilities based in the fully equipped Theatre.
Individual study support with a professional team of assistants.

NATIONAL ACCESS CENTRE:

The National Co-ordinating centre for the National Federation of ACCESS Centres (NFAC): assessment and support

*The National College for Students
with Physical and Sensory Disabilities*

Hereward College of Further Education,
Bramston Crescent, Tile Hill Lane, Coventry CV4 9SW
Telephone: (0203) 461231 Fax: (0203) 694305

facilities provide access to education, training and employment. Consultants to the Open University. Many years' experience in the assessment of the micro technology and study needs of students with disabilities. Industrial and Commercial In-Service Training.

GENERAL FACILITIES:

120 study-bedrooms, 24 hour care and nursing support, independence, personal and social education. Integration of disabled and able bodied, residential and day students. Swimming, physiotherapy, speech therapy, careers and higher education counselling.
Resident and non resident conference facilities.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT:

Nuffield Interactive Book project; Empathy Employment Service; Empathy Ltd (the college charitable company); Empathy Enterprise Park Development; full involvement in Coventry and Warwickshire Training Enterprise Council (TEC); full involvement in Coventry Chambers of Commerce; LCCI Business Administration Course I/II (NVQ) to begin; Student Outreach Service; Kurator supported work placements.

Hereward COLLEGE

YOUR CHANCE TO DETERMINE NATIONAL POLICY HOUSING c £50k

Do you want to play a major role in determining policy at national level on Housing and Direct Services in local government? This Post (Under Secretary) heads the work of the Association on all matters relating to housing, competitive tendering and direct service organisations. You will be leading consultations with



Association of Metropolitan Authorities

Government, giving advice to local authorities and evolving strategies and objectives. The Association represents Metropolitan authorities, who together provide most public sector housing and lead the field in policy work.

You should have knowledge of public sector housing policy or direct service provision. A high level of communication and negotiating skills is required.

Women, Black and Ethnic minority people and those with disabilities are under-represented at this level and we welcome applicants from these groups. People with registered disabilities, who meet the Job Specification, will be guaranteed an interview. The Building is accessible to people with disabilities.

Relocation expenses are provided if necessary. For an informal discussion please contact Rodney Brooke on 071 222 8100 ext. 228. For an information pack and an application form, please write to or phone The Secretary, AMA, 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BJ. Closing date Monday 3rd June 1991.

WANTED

Croydon Council welcomes applications from all people who make up the Community it serves.

In particular we welcome more job applications from women and men with disabilities, who are under-represented in many areas of work.

To help ensure that people with disabilities know what's on offer we can regularly send you

a copy of our weekly vacancy bulletin. Just complete the coupon below and send it to:-

Head of Personnel and Management Services,
Room 8.10, Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon,
CR9 3JS

or telephone the Personnel and Management Services Department on 081-686 4433 Ext. 2011.

PEOPLE WITH ABILITIES

I would like to receive details of the Council's vacancies.

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

DISABLED EMPLOYMENT MAILING LIST

North British Housing Association is one of the largest Associations in the Country. We are committed to Equal Opportunities for all.

The Association employs over 800 staff and as part of a positive action policy we wish to encourage applications from people with disabilities. We are compiling a mailing list of disabled people's organisations so that all of the Association's regional employment vacancies can be distributed to them for further circulation within the communities.

All applications will be considered equally within the Association's Recruitment and Selection Policy. All registered disabled people will be granted an interview, and interviews will be held in accessible venues.

Please submit your organisation's mailing details to: Ms Chris Root, Equal Opportunities Officer, The North British Housing Association Limited, 4 The Pavilions, Portway, Preston, PR2 2YB.

UNITED BRISTOL HEALTHCARE NHS TRUST AND AVON DISABLED LIVING CENTRE STEERING GROUP DEVELOPMENT WORKER (6 months - in the first instance)

Avon needs a Disabled Living Centre where disabled people can see a range of equipment for independent living and receive impartial advice. With the help of the Disabled Living Centres Council a local steering group is trying to establish such a Centre.

To provide a detailed report on the options for a Disabled Living Centre for Avon and to promote the development of this idea, we are seeking a highly motivated person, who is likely to be disabled and who is skilled with the media and familiar with successful fund-raising to develop this scheme.

Salary: £12,938 p.a. (6 month contract) A&C Scale 6 (Pay Award pending).

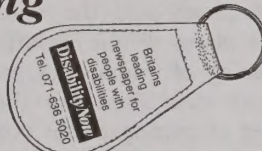
For further information please contact Mr S. Wilkinson, Co-ordinator Disability Services, Keynsham Hospital, St Clements Road, Keynsham, Bristol BS18 1AG. Tel: (0272) 862356.

CLOSING DATE: 30 JUNE 1991.

THE TRUST HAS A POLICY OF PROMOTING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND THEREFORE WELCOMES APPLICATIONS FROM ALL SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY.

Disability Now

The campaigning newspaper for people with all kinds of disabilities



All subscribers get a free DN keyring too.

Please SUPPORT DN by SUBSCRIBING NOW

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Please return to Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, FREEPOST 17 London W1E 3HU with your remittance made payable to THE SPASTICS SOCIETY. No stamp is needed.

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Expiry Date ____ / ____ Signature _____

Telephone ACCESS/VISA account. no. to (071) 383 4575

Disability Now is a non profit making publication. It is sent free to disabled people on low income if they let us know.

* Multiple copies
2 copies £24, 3 copies £36, 4 copies £48, 5 copies £60, 6 copies £72,
10-50 copies £100, 51-100 copies £125. One year (12 issues) only.

Training axed

Thousands of Enterprise Training and Youth Training places provided by voluntary organisations for unemployed people with special needs have been axed because of Government cuts, says a new study.

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations' survey covering 152 voluntary organisations, found that 16,500 places had been lost this year.

Three quarters of ET places lost and half the YT places were for people with special needs and the disadvantaged.

NCVO director Usha Prashar said: "We have warned the Government that their system for funding Training and Enterprise Councils would place special groups at a disadvantage and that has turned out to be the case. That is why we proposed in March that there should be a new programme called Special Training Action for people with special needs."

An Employment Department spokeswoman said the reduction in places would not affect the quality of training for people with disabilities nor their chances of getting a job: "Our contracts with TECS ensure we provide high quality and cost effective training for all trainees with disabilities."



Fitba' crazy: Derby County football fan Lisa Thornhill, 13, cheers on her club. Other disabled supporters, including blind and visually impaired people, got the chance to enjoy "the Rams" trophies, including the 1970 Watney cup, at an "In Touch" event in May.

DERBY EVENING TELEGRAPH

The weekend starts here

A new braille magazine for blind and visually impaired is out this month.

Published by the Royal National Institute for the Blind, *The Weekender* will carry news, travel, leisure, finance, food, drink and obituaries.

The Weekender costs 25p to individuals, £1 to organisations and £1.50 to people overseas. An abridged Moon version is available free in the UK, or £1.35 to people overseas.

Tel: (0345) 023153 to order.

Cash boost for cochlear implants

Thousands more profoundly deaf people may be helped to hear thanks to an extra £360,000 for cochlear implants from the Government.

And a new way of anchoring hearing aids and artificial ears will also benefit.

Cochlear implants are a form of hearing aid. A fine wire electrode is placed in the ear in such a position that it can transmit signals picked up by an external receiver. These then stimulate the auditory nerve, allowing the user to hear sounds.

The implants can only help people whose deafness is "cochlear", for example caused by meningitis or head injury. The Government estimates that up to 5,000 people could benefit.

Following lobbying by some disability groups and doctors (*DN*, October 1988), the Government gave six hospitals a total of £970,000 to carry out the implants last June. Now a seventh hospital, Addenbrooke's in Cambridge, has been included and the total funding for 1991-92 raised to £1,330,000. No official figures on how many people have benefitted are available yet.

The hospitals to get money are:

- * University College Hospital/Royal Ear Hospital, London (£220,000)
- * Manchester Royal Infirmary (£190,000)
- * Nottingham General Hospital (£200,000)
- * South Hants Hospital, Southampton (£180,000)
- * Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham (£190,000)
- * North Riding Infirmary, Middlesbrough (£170,000)
- * Addenbrooke's (£180,000)

Titanium implants will enable people born without ears or who have lost ears to wear artificial ones. Titanium is used for the screws because it forms a direct bond with the living cells.

Where there is also damage to the middle ear, bone-anchored hearing aids can be provided. These allow people to hear by by-passing the middle ear and stimulating the cochlea.

The hospitals to benefit are:

- * Queen Elizabeth, Birmingham (£195,000)
- * Royal Manchester Children's (£64,000)
- * Hope Hospital, Salford (£11,000).



The Ford Escort has always been one of the best selling cars in the Motability scheme, and the latest Ford Escort should be no exception.

Although only slightly wider than its predecessor,

it's considerably roomier inside. Shallower sills and taller doors that open wider, make getting in and out easier, particularly when you have awkward items to carry, such as a foldaway wheelchair.

Height adjustable front seat belts ensure all occupants travel comfortably, and there's also a remote release (on L models and above) for the new lower and wider tailgate.

Another creature comfort is power assisted steering, available for the first time as an option (1.6 litre engine models only).

For more information fill in the coupon opposite, or call freephone 0800 252 983.

Alternatively, contact one of our Motability specialists (you'll find one at almost every Ford main dealership). They'll also be able to give you details of the special Escort for disabled drivers.

Remember, you don't have to be a disabled driver

to qualify for the Motability scheme. In fact you don't have to be disabled at all. If you have a friend or someone in your family who is disabled you simply have to be nominated by them to act as their 'chauffeur'.

Ford Motor Company, FREEPOST, Dept EWA,
St. Mary's Green, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3BR.
Please send me the Motability scheme details.

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____



When we designed the new Escort, we considered every kind of family.